Daily Report

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Grain Harvest Down in All But 2 CIS Republics

MM0311131594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Valeriy Konovalov: "Harvest on the Expanses of the CIS Draws To a Close With Many Questions Unanswered"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A proportion of the fields in the republics of the CIS remain unharvested as yet, but it is already possible to make a perfectly definite appraisal of the harvest. All republics, apart from Turkmenia [Turkmenistan] and Uzbekistan, have a substantial shortfall of grain in comparison with last year. Nevertheless, the main questions remain open: Who has sufficient grain of their own, who will have to buy in, who will be able to sell grain, and how will next year's harvest be successfully guaranteed?

The new economic conditions are making it difficult for experts to compile forecasts. In the old days, all it took was a simple calculation: There were data on requirements for grain and data on the harvest, and it was easy to compare the two figures. Now the threshed grain might not become a marketable commodity but, instead, remain in the silos. It is not the size of the harvest, but the volume of purchases which determine the economic situation. For instance, Russian grain producers this year are inclined like never before toward selling their grain abroad rather than to their native state, even though the harvest in Russia is lower than last year's—at present, it is estimated at between 83 and 85 million tonnes.

But what about our neighbors? According to the latest information from the CIS Statistics Committee, 15.1 million tonnes was harvested in Kazakhstan in the originally recorded weight, before processing—that is, 70 percent by comparison with last year's level. In Belorussia [Belarus], the figures were 6.3 million tonnes (77 percent); Ukraine—32.8 million (80 percent); Moldavia [Moldova]—1 million (57 percent); Azerbaijan—again, 1 million, but this represents 91 percent of last year's level; Kirgizia [Kyrgyzstan]—0.8 million (59 percent); Tajikistan—0.2 million (89 percent). So it is that in Turkmenia and Uzbekistan there was a rise of 18 and 29 percent respectively in comparison with last year's level. In these two republics, the increase in the harvest is explained first and foremost by an expansion of the area sown to cereal crops at the expense of a reduction in sowings of cotton, but in Uzbekistan the the grain yiled also increased in comparison with last year.

The results, we will stress, are preliminary. But there is a fairly confident forecast from "Agrokhlebbyulleten" experts according to which the harvest in Kazakhstan will come to 16 million tonnes of grain after processing, and in Ukraine—36.5 million tonnes of grain. This is far less than last year's harvest. But it would be enough to guarantee their own needs if the states manage to purchase the grain from their peasants.

What export opportunities do the republics producing most grain face? For Ukraine, this possibility is minimal, as the republic has not exported grain for two years now and it is hardly likely to do so this year. The situation in Kazakhstan is different. There are already 2.7 million tonnes of grain for export. However, will a buyer be found? You know, the quality of Kazakhstan grain is not good this year—on the whole, it is third-rate wheat, or of even lower class. Difficulties with the sale are obvious.

In general, grain export-import transactions between CIS countries this year are extremely doubtful. The epidemic of defaulting in payments has hit these relations, so nobody wants to take the risk, and, indeed, it is extremely difficult to purchase grain from their own peasants. It seems that the entire grain business at state level will be reduced to domestic purchases of grain for one's own needs, while for producers the grain business will, on the contrary, be oriented beyond the boundaries of their own republic on terms of payment up front.

The situation concerning corn, which did not ripen in its main production regions such as Russia and Ukraine, is particularly complex.

Here is an even more difficult problem—that of the fall sowings. This is a common problem for the grain republics. The lengthy drought has left the soil without moisture and it is extremely difficult to lay the foundations of next year's harvest. To all appearances, the situation on the grain market next year is going to be extremely complicated—grain will increase in price and its role as a monetary equivalent in economic interrelations in CIS republics will be boosted.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 4 Nov

LD0411091094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0509 GMT 4 Nov 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 4 (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian press continues to cover the work of the commission investigating reasons for the rouble crash on October 11. Its findings were used by the Russian Security Council to draft a report which was discussed by the council at its meeting in the Kremlin on Wednesday.

The IZVESTIYA newspaper notes that the report will be made public this weekend. Those guilty of the crash will read it also in newspapers. IZVESTIYA prints only a press release giving an idea of the report's content. The daily also gives its own commentary which is, true, of a rhetorical nature.

"The commission drew a profound conclusion that the 'Black Tuesday' collapse was an extraordinary event. This event damaged the course of reforms, stability in society, living standards of a considerable part of population and Russia's international prestige.

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"If nothing is confused in the report, the Security Council believes that the damage to the population should be compensated. A special stress was made on the need for compensating the damage to the population."

The Army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA chose the draft budget for 1995 as one of the main topics for discussion.

In the newspaper's opinion, signs of the last few days—reports on a supposed reshuffling of the cabinet and close attention of the top echelons of power to the procedure of approving the budget, etc.—clearly indicate that the process of adopting the budget will be, above all, of political nature.

The daily reports that while the application of the Defence Ministry was satisfied only by 50 per cent this year, it will be met by slightly over a third in the draft budget for 1995.

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper returns in one of its articles to the no-confidence vote in the government which was held at the Russian parliament lower house last week.

"The following factors are needed to pull the country out of the deep crisis," the newspaper writes. "The president should take resolute actions to form a new government which should be based on a programme of national salvation.

"This programme should be voluntarily supported if not by the entire society, at least by the main elite groups and explained to the popular masses, since simple support by the president of the present government's course, as was the case at the time of the Yegor Gaydar government, is clearly not enough."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA refutes a version in the commentary "Explosive Device" that the chief intelligence department of the Defence Ministry masterminded an explosion at the editorial office of the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS newspaper, as a result of which journalist Dmitriy Kholodov died.

Dealing with the theme of abuses at the Western Army Group stationed in Germany in the past, IZVESTIYA carries an interview with former state inspector Yuriy Boldyrev who investigated this problem two years ago. His conclusion is as follows: What is important is not who and how much stole but why it became possible.

The Russian press continues to comment on the election of notorious president of the MMM joint stock society Sergey Mavrodi to the State Duma (lower house of the Russian parliament).

Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission Nikolay Ryabov said in an interview with ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA that "this is another graphic evidence that we badly need the entire package of legislative acts concerning the election system".

"To my mind, it is an absurdity that Mavrodi (eds: Mavrodi was in custody and under investigation for tax evasion when he joined the by-elections campaign to the State Duma) did not appear a single time at any meeting with his future voters.

"He put into operation only his authorised people and money. Such a behaviour would put an end to the career of any politician in a civilised country. Nobody would treat him seriously. Honest people and not big purses should take part in elections," Ryabov noted.

In the opinion of IZVESTIYA, while living standards are low, the weeds of political illiteracy will bring benefits to latter-day "friends of people" of all hues.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA features an article by NATO Deputy Secretary- General Gebhardt Von Moltke. He expresses hope that ways of developing further relations between NATO and Russia would be discussed in detail during his present visit to Moscow.

The TRUD newspaper examines the difficult economic situation in Ukraine, and the PRAVDA newspaper writes about corruption in the St. Petersburg administration. ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI gives recommendations to new Agriculture Minister Aleksandr Nazarchuk.

The RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA newspaper gives a glimpse of what Russia will be like in the third millennium. The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper devotes one of its articles to 11 inmates at death-row cells in Arkhangelsk who are trigger-happy murderers.

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U.S. Defense Department Refuses Comment on Kola Incident

LD0411111794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1051 GMT 4 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Loshchilin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington November 4 TASS—The Pentagon refused on Thursday to comment on the reports from Moscow and Murmansk about the violation of Russian territorial waters in the Kola Gulf by an American submarine. In reply to repeated requests by ITAR-TASS correspondent to explain the incident, officials of the U.S. Defence Department and the U.S. Navy politely promised to check the reports and to call back. Denis Box, official representative of the Pentagon, also preferred not to expound on the accident [as received]. He told a briefing for journalists here that he had nothing to say on this score. You know that we usually do not discuss submarine operations, and it is my duty to firmly adhere to this rule, he added.

As earlier reported, a U.S. submarine violated the Russian territorial waters in the Barents Sea on Wednesday. According to Russian military sources, a diesel submarine, commanded by Captain Yuriy Smirnov, spotted by hydro-acoustic means a foreign submarine at 15 hours 25 minutes on November 2 within the Russian Northern Fleet's training area, six miles inside the Russian territorial waters in the Barents Sea, on the approaches to the Kola Gulf. The Northern Fleet's anti-submarine forces undertook resolute actions to oust the violator from the Russian territorial waters. This is the third American submarine spotted in the northern territorial waters of Russia over the past two years.

Northern Fleet Confirms Foreign Sub

LD0311130194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1232 GMT 3 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Belousov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Murmansk, 3 Nov— The discovery on Wednesday [2 November] of a foreign nuclear-powered submarine in Russian territorial waters not far from Murmansk was confirmed today by the commander of the Northern Fleet, Oleg Yerofeyev. He told an ITAR-TASS correspondent over the telephone that through the actions of the fleet's forces "the submarine was forced out of Russian territorial waters."

ITAR-TASS learned earlier that a foreign submarine had intruded into Russian territorial waters from an official representative of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, he had refused to clarify to which nation the submarine belonged. According to unofficial reports at the disposal of ITAR-TASS, the submarine was American.

The Foreign Ministry representative also noted that the site where the foreign submarine had been discovered "almost completely coincides" with the site of the collision in February 1993 between a Northern Fleet nuclear-powered submarine and the US Navy's Baton Rouge nuclear-powered submarine. "Our military experts are now analyzing the incident and will give the appropriate assessment," the Russian diplomat indicated.

Northern Fleet Statement on Submarine

LD0311153194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1405 GMT 3 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Belousov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Murmansk, 3 Nov—The Northern Fleet Command has described the violation of Russia's territorial waters by a foreign nuclear submarine on Wednesday as a provocation.

Against the background of Russia's peaceful initiatives and the moves to diminish its fleets, "the provocative actions of the submarines of western countries cannot but provoke concern and condemnation among Russia's citizens," says a statement released today by the Northern Fleet Command and circulated by the fleet's press office. The document also stresses that "the continuation of dangerous maneuvers by foreign submarines near our shores threatens to lead to new incidents with major unpredictable consequences."

Previously the identity of foreign submarines in the Barents Sea could be established quickly. Unfortunately, the Northern Fleet Command has not yet received any precise information. The foreign nuclear submarine that was detected not far from the entrance to the Kola Strait by the antisubmarine forces of the Northern Fleet had moved five kilometers into Russian territorial waters. ITAR-TASS learned this at the press centre of the Northern Fleet. The Northern Fleet, having started to track the transgressor of the maritime border, forced the submarine out of Russian territorial waters.

The fact that a foreign submarine encroached into Russian territorial waters was endorsed by ITAR-TASS and an official spokesman of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry. However, he refused to elaborate on the national identity of the submarine. According to unofficial information obtained by ITAR-TASS, the vessel was American.

The incident, according to a report by the Northern Fleet's press service, has evoked serious concern not only among the fleet command, but also among the inhabitants of the Kola Peninsula. This is by no means the first incidence of infiltration by foreign submarines into Russian territorial waters.

The Northern Fleet press center's statement cites other examples of the violation of Russia's maritime borders in the Polar region. These include the collision between the American nuclear submarine Baton Rouge and a nuclear ice-breaker of the Northern Fleet on 11 February 1992. The people of the north also recall the collision

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between the U.S. nuclear submarine Grayling and a Russian submarine on 20 March this year.

Navy Cites U.S. 'Violation'

LD0311164894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1537 GMT 3 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Nov—According to Russian military sources, the submarine which on Wednesday violated Russian territorial waters in the Kola straits belongs to the U.S. Navy, and this is the third instance in the last two years of a violation by American submarines in Russia's northern territorial waters.

The Russian Navy's press center issued a statement today stressing that the actions of the crew of the foreign submarine are a direct violation of the international agreements on the safety of shipping at sea and create dangerous precedents which could lead to the loss of submarines and to ecological disasters.

"Despite the positive changes in mutual relations between Russia and the NATO bloc countries, the naval forces of a number of foreign states are not refraining from activities against vessels of the Northern Fleet," a report by the fleet's press center points out.

According to verified information from this source, at 1525 on 2 November, from the naval combat weapons training range of the Northern Fleet, six miles into Russian territorial waters in the Barents sea on the approaches to the Kola straits, a diesel submarine under the command of Captain (2d class) Yuriy Smirnov, located a foreign submarine through the use of hydroacoustics. The antisubmarine forces of the Northern Fleet, through decisive actions, forced the vessel which had violated Russia's state border beyond our territorial waters.

The site of the violation by the foreign submarine coincides almost precisely with the site of a collision between a nuclear submarine of the Northern Fleet and the U.S. Navy nuclear submarine Baton Rouge in February 1992.

Navy Aide on Submarine Intrusion

MM0411092494 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Demchenko citing remarks by Navy Staff Chief Navigator Rear Admiral Valeriy Aleksin: "Solitary Voyage"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Wednesday a U.S. submarine violated Russia's state border in the Barents Sea. However, as Navy Staff Chief Navigator Rear Admiral Valeriy Aleksin told us, the fact that it was a U.S. submarine did not emerge until later—at first, the border forces simply detected an unknown submarine in the region of the Northern Fleet's No. 5 Combat Training Range near the entrance to Kola Bay. The submarine was submerged.

As the Navy Press Service release says, "the submarine intruder was driven out of our territorial waters by the resolute actions of the Northern Fleet's antisubmarine forces." V. Aleksin explained that resolute actions means measures to notify the submarine's crew that it had been detected and that they were preparing to attack it. The intruders had no alternative but to retreat.

After the submarine left Russia's territorial waters, Northern Fleet specialists determined from sonar recordings that it was an American vessel.

This is the second time in the past two years that Russia's territorial waters have been violated by a U.S. submarine. In February 1992 a Northern Fleet nuclear submarine collided with the U.S. Navy's nuclear submarine Baton Rouge. It is noteworthy that the location where the submarine was detected this time coincides almost exactly with the site of the collision two years ago.

The Russian Foreign Ministry told us that the incident is being analyzed, and in all probability there will be an official statement soon.

Kozyrev Says Syria 'Seriously Inclined' Toward Peace

LD0311125094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1059 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The talks in Damascus have confirmed that Syria is very seriously inclined towards positive development in the peace process in the Middle East, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said.

Speaking in Damascus on Monday [31 October] before departing to Moscow, he said that a comprehensive peace process cannot be successful without progress in the Syrian and Lebanese directions and without Syria's role in the process. Kozyrev also believes that the process will not be efficient unless the Russian Federation takes part in it.

In Damascus Kozyrev met Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, to whom he handed over a personal message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin. He also held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Kozyrev is sure that both leaders are inclined to intensify bilateral contacts and to expand the peace process in the region.

For his part, the Syrian Foreign Minister, in his statement to journalists, said that Damascus welcomes Russia's role in the Middle East settlement. He expressed hope that the current diplomatic efforts will bring about tangible progress in the Israeli-Syrian direction. Faruq al-Shar' also favored the expanding of Russian-Syrian relations.

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Kozyrev Visit to Syria Said 'Not the Last'

MM0411094794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Nov 94 p 3

[Commentary by Konstantin Eggert: "Hafiz al-Asad as the Russian Foreign Ministry's Last Hope"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, Moscow—A bearded young man resembling the famous singer George Michael looks down on passersby from the walls of houses and storefront windows. His portraits are on motor car windshields. In life he was called Basil Hafiz al-Asad.

The Syrian president's beloved second son [sredniy syn but FBIS believes Basil Hafiz al-Asad to have been president's first son] died in a car accident in the winter and has become transformed into a legendary figure for the ordinary people. "The cult of Basil is not only, and not so much, an obligatory tribute, natural under an authoritarian regime, to the state leader's grief. It is an entirely sincere posthumous idealization of a brilliant officer, a lover of thoroughbred horses, fast cars, and the good life," a foreign correspondent accredited in Damascus suggests. The death of the smiling and sociable son seems to add to and humanize the image of President Hafiz al-Asad himself—the dispassionate and secretive veteran of Near East politics who has governed the country and its 15 million people with an iron hand for almost a quarter of a century. Today few people doubt that in his declining years he has made the decision to conclude peace with Israel, but only on the most advantageous terms for his country possible.

Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev spent two and a half hours with this man who is fond of unhurried conversation over a cup of tea. The Syrian leader's traditional cautiousness in dealing with the press met with the understanding of the head of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: At his press conference before leaving Syria, Kozyrev limited himself to general phrases. His entourage also kept their vow of meaningful silence.

The visit to Syria by the chief of Russian diplomacy had been postponed several times, and it was far from always possible to account for the postponement convincingly. This is why in Damascus poorly concealed satisfaction could be read on the face of Viktor Posuvalyuk, the president's special representative for the Near East. The day before, in an interview with TISHRIN, the semi-official Syrian newspaper, he said that Kozyrev had come for the first time, but evidently not the last.

It appears from the remarks both of the minister himself and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Near East Department that Moscow hopes that Syria will become Russia's main regional partner now that cooperation with the former USSR's other client countries, such as Libya or Iraq, have been frozen and to a significant degree compromised.

At one time there were 8,000 Soviet specialists, almost 2,000 of whom were military specialists, working in Syria. But even now, after the noticeable decline in relations in the late eighties and early nineties, 2,000 "khabirs" (as the Arabs call all specialists) continue to work here, of whom several hundred are engaged in military cooperation. The overwhelming majority get by without translators—tens of thousand of people in this country know Russian. No fewer than 10,000 Russian women are married to Syrians.

All this stimulates Moscow's attempts to rekindle its former friendship. In addition, many hopes are pinned on al-Asad in the sphere of a Near East settlement. He is called on to help Moscow to advance once again to the forefront of regional policy following its eclipse by the United States, at least in the eyes of public opinion.

"Our links with Damascus are far firmer and deeper than the Americans'," a senior foreign ministry official believes. "There is a widespread opinion that Washington is prepared to make any sacrifices, especially financial, to dictate to al-Asad peace terms with Israel and then edge us out of Syria. But I am not sure that things will happen exactly like that. There is also another possible scenario: America will forget about the Syrians as soon as they conclude the inevitable peace with the Israelis." The subtext is that it does not suit the White House, with its numerous partners in the Near East, to waste efforts on a country with an unreformed economy and lacking in resources.

It is on these expectations that Smolensk Square's strategy is evidently based. On the one hand, Moscow wants to push al-Asad toward dialogue with Israel, on the other hand, to act as the champion of Syrian interests in expectation of future partnership. Not the simplest of tasks, especially since Russian influence in the region is only one of the trump cards which al-Asad can use in negotiations with the Jewish state and the Americans. Others include his influence on Islamic fundamentalists in the Lebanon, who have spilt a lot of Israeli blood, and also on the Palestinian opposition to 'Arafat, mainly among the ultraleft national revolutionaries. They are not capable of stopping the peace process, but they can cause a lot of unpleasantness. In addition, al-Asad will wind up his long-standing relations with fundamentalist Iran also only in return for "additional payment."

Syria remains in debt to Russia: Overdue debts have accumulated to the tune of around $2 billion, and Damascus is obliged to pay back $10 billion in all by the year 2015. It is believed that indebtedness is the lever which the Kremlin can use to encourage the Syrians toward dialogue with the country which the official press still dubs a "Zionist formation." However, Russian diplomats claim that Moscow does not as yet intend to operate according to the formula of "writing off debts in exchange for peace."

Kozyrev Seeks More From Poland on Beatings

LD0311131194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1206 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow—Andrey Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs of the Russian Federation,

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today called the Polish side's explanation over the beating of Russian citizens at a Warsaw railway station "insufficiently clear", commenting on the postponement of Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to Poland. "The source of the problem is that Russian citizens were treated in an unjustifiable way and we have still not received the sufficiently clear explanations and apologies from the Polish side which one would expect in such cases", the head of Russia's diplomatic department said.

Decision Unanimous on Delay of Poland Visit

LD0311134494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1222 GMT 3 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, 3 Nov—Boris Yeltsin is considering Ukraine's proposal of dates for his visit to Kiev at the end of November. This was reported to our ITAR-TASS correspondent today by Dmitriy Ryurikov, the Russian president's aide.

During the course of the Russian president's visit to Budapest scheduled for the beginning of December, Ryurikov said, "issues of European security will be under discussion." The documents on this subject are now being prepared.

On 23 December, Yeltsin is planning to take part in the meeting of the Council of heads of CIS states that will be held in Almaty.

The Russian president's aide said that "Russia's executive power is unanimous" regarding the postponement of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to Poland over the absence of any reply or apologies from the Polish side about Russian citizens having been beaten up at the Warsaw railway station.

Karasin Says No 'Emergency' at Polish Missions

LD0311150994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1346 gmt 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A telephone talk is likely to take place between Russian and Polish premiers Viktor Chernomyrdin and Waldemar Pawlak in the near future, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told Interfax at around 14:00 (Moscow time) today.

Karasin said such a telephone conversation could help to clarify the situation emerged after Chernomyrdin put off his visit to Poland.

Karasin added that allegations in the Polish media claiming that Russian President Boris Yeltsin had declared a state of emergency in all Russian missions in Poland were "absolutely absurd."

Karasin said that the Polish media had recently been attempting to distort the situation and fan tensions around the postponement of Chernomyrdin's visit to Warsaw. He added that this gave cause for concern.

Karasin said it was high time to put an end to the hysteria, consider the facts objectively and focus on assuring the normal development of Russian-Polish relations in the future.

Karasin announced that he had spoken on the phone with Russian Ambassador to Poland Yuriy Kashlev at around 13:00 (Moscow time) today. Kashlev told Karasin that all Russian missions in Poland were functioning as usual.

Attack on Train Passengers Part of 'Campaign'

MM0311121594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Nov 94 p 1

[Article by Pavel Shinkarenko: "'Enemy Image' Brought Back to Life Again in Poland. Warsaw Must Make a Clear Response to Incident with Russian Citizens"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Federation Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to Poland, which was scheduled for 3-4 November, has been postponed. As the Russian Federation government press service reported, Moscow is waiting for Warsaw to supply "adequate and clear answers to the questions it has raised in connection with the incident involving Russian Federation citizens at a railroad station in Warsaw 23 October." (ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI wrote about this incident 28 October in the article "Polish Police Poison Russians with Gas").

The cancellation of a visit at this level a few days before it was to begin is a fairly rare diplomatic case. It is no accident that, just the day before, Russian Federation Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov had announced that "the incident itself and the delay in settling it clearly do not create a favorable backdrop for the Russian premier" but nevertheless deemed the visit to be possible. (See ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 2 November). Obviously the Foreign Ministry considered that the economic advantages of the "contract of the century," which envisages the construction of the Polish section of a transcontinental gas pipeline and the transportation to West Europe of 67 billion cubic meters of Russian natural gas, cannot be put in the same league as the defiled honor of their compatriots.

Viktor Chernomyrdin assessed it otherwise. And he is right. The incident involving the beating up and unlawful arrest of our fellow citizens, which, in the light of international practice, must be particularly carefully explained on the eve of an official visit by the head of government, is only an episode in a propaganda campaign which has been mounted in Poland directed—it cannot be assessed otherwise—against Russia. It became especially intensive in the summer months in connection with the anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, when certain Polish political circles and the press laid the blame for the failure of the uprising at the door of the USSR and demanded an "official apology" from Moscow. Corresponding "propaganda actions" were also

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conducted on the occasion of other historical dates—the beginning of World War II, the Red Army's entering western Ukraine and western Belorussia [Belarus], and even the anniversary of the Kosciuszko uprising. The subject of the Katyn tragedy is continuing to be stirred up and seen in the light of "obstacles being created by the local Russian authorities" with respect to the construction of Polish cemeteries. The campaign arsenal includes opinion polls about the disposition of Poles' "sympathies" toward individual nations, as a result of which the Russians and Ukrainians turn out to be the most "disliked."

Depressingly enough, a very audible voice in this chorus is that of official Warsaw politicians, notably Henryk Goryszewski, chief of the National Security Bureau and minister in the Polish President's Chancellery. Describing his speech at Gdansk University, TRYBUNA singled out these words: "We have to protect ourselves against almost all of our neighbors. Mainly against Russia, because it has not given up its role as a great power...." And RZECZPOSPOLITA, which is close to the government, compared the Russian president's entourage to a "nest of vipers." Moscow is also presented as the "main obstacle in the way of Poland's membership of NATO." Against this backdrop, the actions of the police who set upon the Russians are entirely logical.

Detractors 'Doubly Wrong' on Warsaw Summit Cancellation

MM0311123794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Nov 94 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Kiryanov: "Is the Russification of the Polish Economy Possible?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Warsaw—The undisputed number one topic in the Polish media is the visit by premier Viktor Chernomyrdin that had been expected. Journalists, economists, parliamentary deputies are all busy discussing and forecasting the state of and prospects for Polish-Russian relations.

Some papers, for instance, are intent on playing down the significance of the visit and on portraying Russia as an economic pygmy, incapable of doing anything for Poland. Others play the tiresome old record about the "imperialist mentality" allegedly characteristic of the great Eastern neighbor, deriving, they say, from the serious economic situation in Russia. "Will the Russian premier's visit bring positive advances in the sphere of economic cooperation?" those participating in an evening discussion on Polish television's Channel One wondered. "Will we face the threat of the Russianization of the Polish economy as a result of the signing of a package of economic agreements with Viktor Chernomyrdin? Will Poland degenerate if it starts to adapt to an incompletely reformed Russian economic system?"

The postponement of the visit for reasons the whole world knows about is being used by certain Polish observers as fuel for their fire. Discarding the real reasons for V. Chernomyrdin's decision as unworthy of attention, they have set about looking for a "hidden mechanism." Their hypotheses include the alleged presence of very serious differences on many matters which were to be discussed at the summit meeting.

In turn, we can ask the question: Are such skeptical forecasts and assessments of the visit warranted? Clearly, we must say a few words about Russian-Polish economic links in order to demonstrate that the pessimism of this section of the journalistic fraternity is far from justified. Here are a few data relating to trade and economic cooperation between the two countries this year. In the first eight months reciprocal trade turnover was around $1.5 billion—a significant increase compared with the same period last year. The upshot is that Russia occupies third place in Polish imports and second place in exports. Poland stands in seventh place in Russian foreign trade.

The talks were to be focused on seven draft agreements relating to such important matters as the implementation of intergovernmental accords on the creation of a system of gas pipelines to carry Russian gas across Polish territory and to carry it to Poland. There are plans to sign a joint protocol on all aspects of the implementation of this impressive project.

There is another document on the settlement of reciprocal debts. This problem, as the Polish press rightly stresses, has remained unresolved since the days of the last "communist government." Its solution is envisaged within the framework of the so-called zero option-plus.

The premiers were intending to sign an agreement on cooperation in the sphere of industrial coproduction. Joint programs in such important machine building sectors as the aviation, automotive, shipbuilding, and electronics industries are seen as the most promising.

Questions of financial, banking, and military-technical cooperation are also on the agenda. Moreover, there will also be discussion of prospects for collaboration in the agricultural sphere. The two countries' interests also embrace the joint development of transport and communications, including telecommunications—agreements have been devised on cooperation in the sphere of postal and electrical communications and also on cooperation in the customs sphere; prompt reporting of nuclear accidents and exchange of information relating to nuclear installations; cooperation in the sphere of the press and information....

Now, does this program of talks pose any danger to Poland? As a contrast to the skeptics, here is what sober-minded Polish observers think. They believe that "Poland is as valuable to the European Union, which it is keen to join, as its links with its Eastern neighbors, above all Russia and the CIS, are strong." One has to admit that they are right too when they say that no undesirable "Russianization" will threaten Poland if it

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shifts the main burden of the implementation of agreements signed in Warsaw from officials to the shoulders of specific entrepreneurs, who actually want to see them swiftly implemented. It is to be hoped the Russian side does the same.

So the skeptics are doubly wrong—both when they look for dangers in Poland's relations with Russia and when they look for reasons for the postponement of the Russian premier's trip to Warsaw where they do not exist at all...

Polish Media Reaction to Station Incident Cited

MM0411125094 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 4 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Kiryanov under "Reaction" rubric: "Poland: 'Moscow Believes in Tears....'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Warsaw—A few days ago, when the Polish newspaper EKSPRES WIECZORNY [EVENING EXPRESS], responding to the incident involving the beating up of Russians in Warsaw, carried on its front page an ironical headline about "Moscow" which "believes in tears," nobody could have imagined how badly everything would turn out. Above all for Polish-Russian relations. That it would not be confined to terse diplomatic notes but would also be the crucial factor in the postponement of Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to Poland.

It must be admitted that nobody in Poland expected such a strong reaction from the Russian side. People here have long been accustomed to looking with Olympian calm on robberies of guests from the neighboring country. It was obviously believed that the Russians should deal with the criminals themselves. According to information from the Russian Consulate, this year alone 3,600 Russians have been crime victims in Poland. This statistic, let me stress, reflects only the cases that have been publicized. Whereas the submerged part of the crime "iceberg" is much bigger.

So the boil has burst. Moreover, the consequences have gone far beyond the framework of the remit of the police commissariat and prosecutor's office, which have begun an investigation into the incident and a search for the gangsters. The station incident shook the public, really affected the two countries' governments, and was the only reason for delaying the Russian premier's long-awaited visit. Why exactly was the Polish side unable to offer its apologies even the day before the visit was due to begin and why did it not give a clear answer to a simple question: For what reasons were fundamental international conventions and bilateral agreements violated in relation to Russian citizens? One of them, concluded way back between the USSR and Poland (let us observe that nobody has rescinded it), provides for the immediate notification of the embassy of the country whose citizens have been arrested or imprisoned. But this was not done. Why?

According to the statement just delivered by the Polish Government, it cannot offer its apologies for the incident until the investigation has been completed. "The investigation is being conducted at a very fast pace and a special Ministry of Internal Affairs representative is participating in it," Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski said. "When it has definitely been established who the culprits are, we will without doubt be able to apologize." The Polish Government expressed the hope that the incident would not affect the state of Polish-Russian relations or the signing in the near future of all the agreements between the two countries which were carefully prepared for the visit.

The mass media are overflowing with a great multitude of articles and commentaries about what happened. A platform was given, for example, to former Defense Minister Jan Parys, who tried to convince radio listeners that, if Russia is trying to inflame the atmosphere and ruin bilateral relations, Poland is perfectly capable of living without it, its natural resources, and mutual trade. In his opinion the main thing is that all is well with Western countries. Another local opposition representative appeared on television, deeming the occurrence to be "an attempt to weaken Poland's position in the West's eyes." But Poland will win, because now, having seen the real threat to it from the East, NATO will accept it as a NATO member more quickly....

Some newspapers are arguing that it has emerged that certain forces are deliberately trying to exploit the incident to complicate the situation.

At the same time some Polish ministers have just declared the great benefits of collaboration with Russia, pointing out the groundlessness of conjectures about the "lack of preparation" of documents and confirming Poland's interest in signing and implementing them. Whether it be the construction of a transit gas pipeline or the agreements on mutual financial settlements, customs matters, and many other joint projects....

As for the lamentable incident, according to the latest reports the Warsaw Prosecutor's Office has declared that it is officially seeking two people suspected of robbing the Russians at "Warsaw East." An active search is under way for other members of the gang, whose details are in the law-enforcement organs' files. It cannot be ruled out that the robbers will include Polish citizens as well as CIS inhabitants. The correctness of the police officers' actions is also being carefully studied. Just watch, it will turn out that the tears in which Moscow believed were not in vain.

Yeltsin Satisfied Over Talks With Spain

LD0311155394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1101 GMT 3 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Nov—Questions of development of bilateral relations, as well as of cooperation between Russia and Spain in settling issues of

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European security and integration, were discussed today in the course of a meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana. The latter is in Moscow on an official visit.

The Russian president's press service reported that Boris Yeltsin expressed satisfaction concerning the closeness of the positions of Russia and Spain on the discussed issues.

Kozyrev Meets Spanish Counterpart

LD0311134094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1252 GMT 3 Nov 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today Javier Solana and Andrey Kozyrev, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry, held talks on settling the Bosnian conflict. The current exacerbation of the situation makes one think again about one's attitude to the resolution on lifting the embargo on arms supplies to the Bosnian Muslims which is to be put to a vote at the UN Security Council, Kozyrev told a brief news conference after the talks. The latest events clearly prove that there are unnecessary things in the region of conflict and these things are weapons specifically.

Poland, Bosnia on Agenda

LD0311150694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1346 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to Poland had been postponed not canceled.

"The main source of the problem is that Russian citizens have been treated in an unjustifiable manner in Poland," Kozyrev said answering a question by Interfax as he talked to reporters after a meeting with his Spanish counterpart, Javier Solana, in Moscow on Thursday. "We still haven't had a sufficiently clear reply or apologies from the Polish side, which are natural things to do in such cases."

"As soon as this factor is eliminated we'll have to try to create a proper political climate for the development of good-neighborly relations with Poland, work that should include preparations for a visit by the prime minister of the Russian Federation to that country," Kozyrev said.

The Russian minister said he and Solana at their talks paid serious attention to "conflict situations in Europe, above all in Bosnia-Herzegovina, an issue on which Russia and Spain take the same position that political and not military tendencies must be strengthened."

Solana, for his part, said Spain opposed a proposal to lift the embargo on arms supplies to the Bosnian Muslims. "The latest developments have made it perfectly obvious that Bosnia is overloaded with arms, so lifting the embargo would be a mistake," he said.

It would also mean "great problems" for such countries as Russia and Spain, which keep peacekeeping troops in the conflict zone, Solana continued. "It is difficult to combine participation in a peacekeeping operation with a situation where an arms embargo is simultaneously lifted," said the Spanish minister, who on Thursday evening leaves for Warsaw.

ITAR-TASS Views Talks

LD0311221194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1606 GMT 3 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Nov—"Spain's policy is directed toward uniting Europe, not dividing it, and we fully share this credo of our friends," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said, summing up at a joint news conference the results of Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana's visit to Moscow, which ended today. "Although our Spanish guest's visit has yet to finish, it can already be called successful," the Russian minister stressed. "The current state of Russo-Spanish relations enables this visit to be seen as the latest step up the ladder."

Among the meetings held by the Spanish minister in Moscow, Andrey Kozyrev described Javier Solana's talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin this morning as "crucial."

Assessing the results of this meeting, the Russian president said "our relations with Spain are developing in an upward line, particularly in the political sphere." At the same time, Boris Yeltsin pointed to the "need to bring the economic sphere up to the same level." The Russian head of state stressed with satisfaction the "absence of political disagreements on international issues."

During Javier Solana's talks in Moscow, attention was focused on international problems, in particular, the escalation of the conflict in Bosnia. "We share the opinion that it is necessary to increase our political, not military, efforts in Bosnia- Herzegovina", Kozyrev said. "Spain is very concerned with the way the situation in Bosnia is developing", J. Solana said. "Recent events proved once again that the international 'Contact Group' should continue their search for a political settlement of the conflict."

Speaking about his talks with Solana, Kozyrev noted that they "concentrated on questions of European security—first of all, preparations for the forthcoming CSCE summit in Budapest." "December promises to be a very important month in international relations, Solana added. During my meetings in Moscow we really paid a lot of attention to the forthcoming CSCE and NATO summits."

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The Spanish foreign minister stressed that his country, which will preside over the European Community's main bodies in the second half of 1995, "will do its best to strengthen the dialogue between Russia and the European Community."

Kozyrev on Possible NATO Operations in Bosnia

LD0311181094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1701 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has said military operations by NATO in Bosnia would seriously destabilize the international situation.

"That would affect Russia, too. Our ultra-nationalists trying to stage a domestic revanche would certainly take advantage of such ill-considered steps as hasty expansion of NATO membership or the alliance's bombing strikes in Bosnia," Kozyrev said after his meeting with NATO Deputy Secretary General Gerhardt von Moltke in Moscow on Thursday.

Kozyrev said he was satisfied with the fact that the US President Bill Clinton in one of his recent public statements described the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a civil war. "It is common knowledge that in a civil war nobody is right and nobody is wrong," Kozyrev said.

He believes that if Moscow succeeds in keeping the West in the regime of partnership, that would be "its contribution to the further stabilization and democratic development of Russia".

Kozyrev did not rule out that Russia's tough response to plans for the hasty expansion of NATO may complicate its relations with some countries in Central and Eastern Europe. "However, it would be far better to have a frank discussion of burning issues today than confrontation tomorrow," Kozyrev said.

He explained that in principle Moscow was not against the admission of new members in NATO. "Probably, Russia itself will become a member of that organization with time," he said. "We are against leaping over natural phases of establishing closer relations, though," he added.

Kozyrev said that he "prefers to consider how to continue along the road of cooperation with the West, rather than what we can do in the political and military terms in response to unfriendly steps. And we can do a great deal in this respect," he said.

Commission Refutes Allegations Against Troops

LD0311202694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1930 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A special commission made up of representatives of the Russian Defense Ministry and the command of the UN Peacekeeping Forces in former Yugoslavia has not confirmed a single one of the accusations made gainst the Russian battalion of blue helmets stationed in Croatia. Forty-two accusations had been made against the Russian airborne troops, starting from unsatisfactory performance of their duties, smuggling cigarettes and illegal trading in UN fuel, and ending with the organization of brothels.

Lieutenant General Aleksandr Chindarov, deputy commander of Russia's airborne troops, said that all these allegations had been specially fabricated in order to discredit the Russian contingent of UN forces in former Yugoslavia.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin Appoints Panskov New Finance Minister

LD0411102094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0950 GMT 4 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 4 Nov—Vladimir Panskov, deputy head of the finance and budget directorate within the Russian Federation president's administration, has been appointed as the new Russian finance minister by a decree from the head of state and following representations from the prime minister.

We recall that Sergey Dubinin, who carried out the duties of head of the financial department, was removed from office following the collapse of the ruble on 11 October. Andrey Vavilov, who was next to fulfill the duties of minister, received a severe reprimand from the president based on the results of an investigation into the reasons for the collapse of the ruble on "Black Tuesday" and was unable to contend for the office of minister.

Yegor Gaydar, the leader of "Russia's Choice," who discussed on Thursday with Boris Yeltsin the candidature of Vladimir Panskov for the office of the country's main financier, described him as a "strong professional." However, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin made it clear at a news conference yesterday that, following the "hatchet job" carried out by Vladimir Panskov on the draft budget for 1995, he did not view his possible appointment with any particular enthusiasm.

New Finance Minister Interviewed

LD0411104694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1005 GMT 4 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 4 Nov—Vladimir Panskov, 50, who was today appointed Russian finance minister by a decree of the head of state, told ITAR-TASS in his first interview in his new post that this appointment "is not a gift: There is a lot of serious work to be done."

In reply to a question as to how he would build his relationship with Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, who on Thursday [3 November] reacted without enthusiasm to Panskov's possible appointment as head of the financial department because of the fact that he criticized the 1995 draft budget and the tax legislation draft in his capacity as deputy head of the finance and budget department of the Russian Federation president's administration, the new minister said: "My position has not changed just because I have moved office." At the same time, he made it clear that he reserves the right to be an independent figure in the government.

Panskov told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that he had no intention of making any fundamental changes to the work of the Finance Ministry. "I intend to strengthen the role of the Finance Ministry board and to look into all the complexities of the country's financial situation."

He spoke in favor of a monetarist course of the reforms with the proviso that "tough measures are necessary, not just for the sake of it—it would be absurd to dish them out right and left when there is no money—but one needs to support a state that is restructuring its production."

In his reaction to reports in the press that the new minister once spent five months in a solitary confinement cell on a corruption charge, Panskov said: "Based on the results of the investigation, I was fully rehabilitated, and I am taking up my duties as minister with a clear conscience."

Yeltsin, Rybkin Agree on Government Reshuffle

LD0311184194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 3 Nov 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Boris Yeltsin and Speaker of the State Duma (the lower house of parliament) Ivan Rybkin have reached agreement on the need for a government reshuffle after a meeting on Wednesday [2 November]. The process will take one or two weeks to implement, Rybkin told Interfax. However, he did not elaborate apart from saying that "the potential of Russia's second large city (St. Petersburg) is not fully represented in the government", especially by those who have gained a superb experience in economic management under market conditions. IF Note: Unconfirmed reports say the impending shake up will first of all affect the posts of economic and finance ministers. Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin is expected to relinquish his other job as economics minister. Shokhin himself spoke of discussing the issue with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin who wants Vice Premiers to part with their ministerial posts. The national security council meeting on Wednesday accused the economics ministry and other departments for the recent crash of the ruble on the Moscow currency market. Many do not rule out a possible dismissal of Vice Premier and Chairman of the State Property Committee Anatoliy Chubays and Interior Minister Viktor Yerin. Justice Minister Yuriy Kalmykov may also go if approved as a member of the Constitutional Court by the Federation Council (the upper house of parliament). In an earlier interview with Interfax, Rybkin mentioned the possibility of four new cabinet appointments.

The President and the Speaker have agreed on substantial cuts in the federal staff including the administration, government, parliament and the judiciary.

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Rybkin said although the president had endorsed the parliament-approved law on next year's budget, he indicated that one of its provisions saying the government must immediately resign if its budget is defeated in parliament was out of line with the existing constitution. Yeltsin wants it to be tested by the Constitutional Court which is due to resume soon.

Rybkin also spoke of receiving a package of four bills from the president. These deal with presidential and general elections, nationwide referendums and the make up of the Federation Council. All of the four bills were sent to First Vice Speaker Mikhail Mityukov and Chairman of the Legislative Committee Vladimir Isakov, said the Speaker.

A national conference is to be called later this month to discuss how to improve coordination by government branches both horizontally and vertically. Apart from representatives of the administration, government and Federal Assembly, this will include delegates from eight regional associations of economic cooperation.

Yeltsin reaffirmed plans of holding a series of meetings with leaders of the parliamentary factions this month.

He planned meeting Sergey Shakhray of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, Yegor Gaydar of the Democratic Choice of Russia and Gavriil Popov of the Russian Democratic Reform Movement on Thursday.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at a cabinet meeting on Thursday called for greater cooperation between the parliament and legislature, especially in the area of law-making. "The government and parliament must enjoy relations of friendship and partnership", he said.

He pointed to the 1995 budget, new tax legislation and the second stage of privatization for money as possible areas of cooperation.

Other priority legislation includes a new bankruptcy law and a package of statutes in pursuance of the president's economic decrees.

Chernomyrdin also called for an immediate adoption of the law on Russian government.

The government will set up a special service for contacts with parliament, he said calling for a serious review of the question time in the State Duma in order not to turn it into a formal procedure of questions and replies.

Chernomyrdin spoke of the need for a clear-cut schedule of meetings between leading factions on the one hand and himself and his deputies on the other. He pledged meeting deputies at least once in two or three months.

The prime minister also called for the government council for economic reforms to get down to work with leaders of parliamentary groups allowed to co-chair the body.

On the recent no-confidence vote, Chernomyrdin said the government has learnt a good lesson while the voting results indicated that the basis for constructive engagement was there. He denied that the government policy was rejected adding it was useless to try to pinpoint the winner and the loser following the vote.

Kremlin Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov is also involved in the meeting.

Shokhin Confirms Reports on Cabinet Reshuffle

LD0311182694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1728 GMT 3 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 3 TASS— "I shall not be ready to work with ministers nominated by the State Duma's factions or recommended by other organizations if we have differences of a fundamental policy character as regards the 1995 proposed budget and the concept of the medium-term economic programme", Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin told reporters on Thursday [3 November], when asked about possible government reshuffle.

The vice-premier confirmed that a new central bank chief and a new finance minister would be named within the next few days. According to him, there are already several candidates to the offices of finance minister and economics minister.

"Today, the touchstone to decide whether candidates are fit for the offices of finance and economics ministers will be their attitude towards the proposed budget and the concept of the medium-term economic programme", Shokhin said to justify his stand. "If it turns out that the ministers were opposed to these documents, I can hardly imagine how to further work with them", he added.

"With this in view, I am confused, in particular, with a negative opinion about the draft budget provided by the presidential administration's budget and finance department, where two candidates for finance minister work now, namely Vladimir Panskov and Igor Moskovskiy", the deputy prime minister emphasised.

Sources at the Federation Council reported earlier that Yakov Urinson, first deputy economics minister, would be shortly appointed to the post of economics minister.

Rules Out Cabinet's Resignation

LD0311192094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1701 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin speaking on Thursday [3 November] ruled out any chance of government resignation even if the 1995 budget was rejected by parliament. "It will stick to the original budget, but is prepared to accept parliamentary amendments," he said.

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At the same time, he said the government was hopeful the Constitutional Court would accept Yeltsin's appeal for annulling those provisions of the recent law which link the fate of the government with house debate on the budget.

Shokhin is confident that the legislators would respond accordingly to the proposed budget given that "it is one of a powerful state with an advanced economy." He said the budget would not become prey to political ambitions by leaders of the parliamentary groups in the run up to a new presidential race.

On government plans to stop borrowing credits from the Central Bank, Shokhin pointed to the prospect of developing the market of government bonds and securities as a way of raising finances to narrow the budget deficit. In his view, the government will be able to expand it by attracting individual and corporate buyers.

Yeltsin Beginning Campaign To Salvage Image

MK0311135094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Ruslan Sakirov in the "President" column under general headline: "The President Has Nearly Caught Those Responsible for the Ruble Crash. Although They Have Slipped Off Again, the Demonstration of Pursuit Will Continue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that the latest move by the Security Council and the president only accentuates the need for further steps to stabilize his political image and prestige and quite corresponds to his emerging movement toward populist measures.

Matvey Burlakov's resignation is only the beginning of a new political line which is fairly simple: Find the thieves (criminals, saboteurs) and put them in prison. Lev Vaynberg [prominent businessman recently arrested under questionable circumstances] did not fit that role. Neither did Mavrodi: Now he is under the protection of the State Duma.

Various options for restoring the president's political leadership are currently being reviewed by Boris Yeltsin's staff. In this context one can well expect the appearance of a package of presidential edicts on social issues and, as one source indicated, even on courting the monarchists (not to mention other political trends). Analysts link Boris Yeltsin's loss of political image to the fact that he has ignored one nationwide catastrophe after another, and chances are that the next "Kurils" will receive his personal attention.

Yeltsin Seeks Democratic Support in Elections

MK0411121094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 4 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Veronika Kutsyllo: "Boris Yeltsin's Political Consultations. Old Friends Are Remembered in the Hour of Need"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Unlike in old times, Boris Yeltsin appears to be seriously intent on fulfilling his pledge about a cabinet reshuffle. While the president's meeting with Vladimir Shumeyko yesterday was largely ceremonial, his consultations with leaders of the democratic factions—Yegor Gaydar and Sergey Shakhray—were fairly tense in nature. The democrats accused the president of inconsistent steps (such as the appointment of Nazarchuk), while Yeltsin attempted to explain their meaning to them and in addition reproached "his" factions for lax discipline.

Yeltsin spent about half an hour with each of yesterday's Kremlin visitors (apart from Shumeyko, Gaydar, and Shakhray the president also received Nationalities Minister Nikolay Yegorov; Gavriil Popov, leader of the Russian Democratic Reform Movement; and Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov). The briefness of the meetings suggests that apart from general subjects that do not require lengthy discussions (such as new candidates for the Constitutional Court) the president asked his interlocutors the same questions on reshuffling the cabinet and the administration.

If this is so (the president's interlocutors are still keeping the content of the conversations secret), it turns out that Yeltsin took extremely seriously the deputies' complaints about the executive authority that they voiced in their well-known decree that was passed right after the attempt at a no-confidence motion failed. Although the democrats called the result of the vote "a victory," there is a strong "Pyrrhic" taste to it.

The seriousness of the president's mulling over "the current state of affairs" was confirmed by his decision to seek advice not only from certified "presidential" democrats, but also from Gavriil Popov, whose relations with Yeltsin were seen to have been seriously damaged after October 1993. According to one theory Gavriil Popov met with Yeltsin at his own initiative not as a party leader, but as chief of the International University to discuss problems facing this higher educational establishment. It cannot be ruled out, however, that in the hour of need the president remembered the adage about old friends and tried to sound out the mood in Popov's movement.

Although a reshuffle—one that will possibly affect not only the presidential administration, the Justice Ministry, and the Finance Ministry—appears imminent, Yeltsin does not intend "to be led by the Duma." If the opposition expects to call the president "on the carpet," it does so in vain: according to reports received by KOMMERSANT-DAILY, Yeltsin is not going to spell out his vision of the situation in Russia to the deputies till the date established by the Constitution, namely, till the end of January, when he is due to deliver his message to the parliament. [Article includes following boxed text]

Commentary by Political Department

It seemed for some time that Boris Yeltsin had completely forgotten the democrats—those who still backed

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him. The latest notable meeting was held back at a time when Yegor Gaydar set about creating his party following the December elections and when Yeltsin promised that just in case he would consider it a presidential party. Other contacts with the democrats were only in the general format of meetings with parliamentary faction leaders.

The president did not pay attention to Democratic Russia's threats to give him only token support, nor did he respond to loud calls for the unification of all democrats around Boris Yeltsin as a single candidate in the next presidential elections.

But yesterday showed that Yeltsin has not forgotten his old-time comrades-in-arms. Evidently this was the president's reaction to the State Duma's no-confidence vote in the government. Its results can just as well be viewed as a no-confidence vote in the president himself, since he has repeatedly made public his support for Chernomyrdin. The vote apparently showed Boris Yeltsin that the time when he was the indisputable majority leader is long past.

Apparently Yeltsin's meeting with his old-time allies—Sergey Shakhray is ready to return under the president's wing and has already indicated his willingness to establish contacts with Yegor Gaydar—can be interpreted as a start to his election campaign. The recent resignation of Matvey Burlakov and the appointment of Sergey Gryzunov were evidently the first sounds of a pipe upon hearing which the democratic were to follow in their leader's footsteps once again.

Paper Says Yeltsin 'Walking Tightrope'

MM0411155494 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko, plus report on interview with vice premier Aleksandr Shokhin by Aleksey Portanskiy: "We Await New Ministers And...a Weakening of the Government's Position?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The fact that the cadre reshuffles in the top echelon of power are to continue became known back at the beginning of this week from remarks by V. Shumeyko and I. Rybkin following discussion of these questions with the president in the Kremlin.

Their words were also confirmed by B. Yeltsin's urgent consultations with representatives of democratic forces, which took place 3 November. According to IZVESTIYA's information, there is every reason to believe that the president is going to make concessions on cadres with a view to strengthening his own position, which was shaken as a result of a series of mistakes and miscalculations on his part recently. However, the result of this struggle will most likely lead to a further weakening of the Kremlin's power.

As Ye. Gaydar told IZVESTIYA's correspondent after his meeting with B. Yeltsin, "cadre concessions to anti-market forces will do nothing to improve support for the government or the president's prestige." He refused to specify what cadre reshuffles are planned for the immediate future. But these have become known from well-informed sources in the government.

As of today, the question of the resignation of Justice Minister Yu. Kalmykov is regarded as settled. The president has not yet ventured to agree to hand over this important portfolio to the communist V. Isakov or his colleague V. Kovalev, realizing that this step will provoke heated criticism from the democrats or else prompt them to go over ostentatiously to the opposition. As this issue was going to press, V. Panskov, deputy leader of the Presidential Staff Finance and Budget Administration, became the new finance minister. The edict appointing him had already been prepared at the beginning of this week. A. Shokhin retains his post as vice premier. But he will no longer head the Ministry of the Economy—candidates for the new minister at that ministry are being chosen, in part on the basis of the list proposed by the State Duma. Thus far, the aforementioned sources claim, Ya. Urinson is in the lead. A powerful attack is also being mounted by the State Duma on A. Chubays. However, people in the president's entourage are convinced that B. Yeltsin will not agree at present to the replacement of the leader of the State Committee for the Management of State Property.

As you can see, the president is still walking a tightrope between the interests of political forces at opposite poles. For the moment he is keeping his balance. But he could lose it in the near future. For instance, it is claimed that A. Livshits, leader of the president's group of experts (who is currently in hospital), is unlikely to return to his post. Who will replace him? Much depends on that, since that post could be compared to a filter keeping out alien additives in the course of formation of the state's economic policy.

These and other cadre reshuffles could result in a significant increase in the number of political lobbyists in the government, as well as placemen of financial and industrial groups. There is a growing conviction among Moscow political experts that the way out of this dangerous situation could be to form a government of professionals who are independent of parties or commercial bodies, which could function until the next parliamentary elections. [Kononenko ends]

IZVESTIYA correspondent Aleksey Portanskiy contacted Aleksandr Shokhin, deputy chairman of the government, and asked him to clarify his position concerning the expected cadre changes.

Minister of finance and minister of the economy, the vice premier stated, are not the kind of government posts that allow you to engage in coalition building. If the future leaders of those departments join the government, that should confirm their conscious readiness to implement the economic program for next year that was proposed by the prime minister last week. If the new ministers arrive with their own programs, that will mean

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nothing less than a government crisis, and then it is hard to imagine how the government could operate, A. Shokhin believes.

In reply to the question of whether Aleksandr Nikolayevich is himself prepared to quit the post of vice premier if appointments are eventually made that are not to his liking—albeit just for one post, that of finance minister—he answered in the affirmative, because he regards that as a key post in a government that intends to achieve economic stabilization.

Government Approves Draft Civil Service Law

LD0311195694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1701 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia's government on Thursday [3 November] approved a draft law on the federal civil service.

The draft will be ready to go before parliament after some amendments are made to it.

The law would ban civil servants from engaging in any other paid work except research, teaching or art. It would forbid them to engage in any business, either directly or by proxy, or receive "illegal remuneration" - such as presents or payment for entertainment, holidays or transport - "from corporations or citizens for performing what are their service duties."

Nor would officials be allowed to go abroad at the expense of any individuals or corporations, either Russian or alien, unless they went on business.

The law would also prohibit them from taking part in strikes or "receiving without permission from the president of the Russian Federation any titles, medals or other decorations from a foreign state or organization or from an international organization."

Entering the service, one would have to take an oath, whose text would be included in the law. One could not remain in the service after one is 65.

The law would also lay down certain privileges for civil servants, one of which sets their retiring age at 58 for men and 53 for women, which is two years lower than the basic retiring age.

Urgent Appeal Issued Over Caspian Sea

LD0311212594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1309 GMT 3 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Nov—At today's government sitting, Viktor Danilov-Danilyan, Russian environmental protection and natural resources minister proposed urgently appealing to the Russian Security Council to define Russia's position on the international status of the Caspian Sea. Putting forward a package of measures on protecting the population and solving problems linked to the rising level of the Caspian Sea, the minister stressed that if this international problem was not resolved as quickly as possible the Russian Government's present capacity to defend the population and move installations threatened by flooding would only be half-used.

Danilov-Danilyan reported that financing for a program to move populated areas and their life-support systems—including systems for purifying waste water—out of the area where flooding was expected was insufficient, in spite of the fact that the expenditure earmarked in the Russian draft budget for next year was protected by a special article. Work to protect the population from the advancing Caspian Sea was not resumed this year because of a lack of financing, the minister said. Experts estimate that the level of the Caspian Sea is rising by 14-20 cms each year.

The problem of determining the Caspian Sea's international status after the collapse of the USSR has assumed an urgent nature for the first time since Azerbaijan signed an agreement with a number of foreign firms on developing oil-fields on the Caspian shelf.

Economic Issues

Security Council Ruble Crash Report Derided

MM0311165794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Nov 94 p 1

[Article by Mikhail Berger: "The Security Council Has Brought to Light Those Who Harmed the Ruble Rate and the Kremlin's Course and Promises Compensation for Those Who Suffered"]

[FBIS Translated Text] So, the Security Council has prepared a report on the results of the investigation into the causes of the 11 October events on the currency exchange. It is being promised that the report itself will be presented to the public at the end of the week. The chief people accused—the dismissed leaders of the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank—will also familiarize themselves with the report in the newspapers. So far a report for the press has been disseminated, which provides some idea of the contents of the whole paper.

The commission arrived at the profoundly reasoned conclusion that the events of "Black Tuesday" were an extraordinary occurrence. This occurrence harmed the course of the reforms, the stability of society, the living standards of a significant proportion of the population, and Russia's international authority. If the report has got everything correct, the Security Council believes that the harm to the population must be compensated for. Here special emphasis has been placed precisely on the need to compensate for the harm caused to the population. Does this mean that the course of reforms and international authority can remain in a damaged condition for a while?

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But, to be serious, it would be interesting to know whom precisely it is proposed to compensate for the harm, and specifically how? Who will calculate the "significant proportion of the population" which suffered, and how, and who will separate it from the rest, and how? Will account be taken of the number of mouths and breadwinners in the families of those "harmed," or will they deal only with working citizens? If a wife receives compensation at work, will they not give anything to the husband, or will he in any case retain his status as a currency victim?

Silly questions, of course, but then the proposals are not brilliant either. First—speaking of the harm—well, it is well known. According to Finance Ministry forecasts, the level of inflation for October should have stood at 10 percent, but it turned out to be less than 15 percent. This is a very great deal, particularly against the background of the success in the spring and summer, but only a few percentage points higher than the forecast for the regular situation. Prices as a whole did not increase by 30 percent, as it seemed they would 11 and 12 October. What is to be done with this "above-plan" almost 5 percent of inflation? Index wages in the state sector by this amount? But the budget still has not settled its debts relating to wages in accordance with the old, summer indexation.

The report undoubtedly contains just rebukes concerning the lack of coordinated action by federal organs of the executive. What was missing was missing. True, the Central Bank and the Finance Ministry regularly met in the Credit Commission, but there were no meetings on questions of currency policy on such a regular basis. Currency questions, particularly daily control, were left to the Central Bank. As a well-informed economic expert remarked, the Central Bank's megalomania is exponentially greater than the Finance Ministry's, so it was not easy to agree on current questions of currency regulation even at the level of personal contacts.

The Security Council has also found out (violating banking secrecy and with no court ruling) which specific banks bought and sold how much of what on the exchange 11 October. It really is possible to perceive in the operations of a number of banks something like coordinated actions, since some participants in the currency game at first made applications to buy huge sums of currency but then withdrew the applications when speculation had become unthinkable. But is it possible to regard as a conspiracy the actions of commercial structures aimed at making the maximum profit, if they do not break any existing rules? It is another matter that the rules must be revised, and the report also contains such proposals.

It seems, however, that the idea of a conspiracy remains topical for the report's authors. It remains to be hoped that the Security Council, which obtained its information on banking operations without any court ruling and in violation of banking secrecy, will not publish its list of "guilty" banks (the 10 being "accused" include both very famous ones and quite unknown ones).

Not that there is much hope of tact and responsibility in this instance. As people who had read the report by Wednesday evening say, although the report contains a number of perfectly useful recommendations, it has been compiled, on the whole, in the best traditions of party information. Papers of such style and spirit were usually drawn up for the planned berating of an official or an economic planner who, in the opinion of the top chiefs, was at fault.

According to information from informed sources, the chief compilers of the report, who gathered and generalized materials from various sources, include cadre employees of the USSR Gosplan [State Planning Committee] who left the Ministry of Economics with Oleg Lobov and moved to the Security Council. The very people who, during Lobov's brief tenure as minister of economics, insistently (and in writing) suggested that he turn this department into the Gosplan and the Council of Ministers simultaneously. They are now responsible for the country's economic security and, as we see, have already embarked on the direct fulfillment of their duties.

MMM's Mavrodi Tells Investors 'Be Patient'

LD0311161294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1346 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President of MMM Investment Fund Sergey Mavrodi told a press conference in Moscow today that not so well-off investors would have to be patient and wait for MMM sale offices to open on January 1 for redeeming their MMM shares.

Mavrodi said he just could not help his "partners" until the New Year, no matter how much he would like to do so. He blamed mafia structures of hindering the work of commissions considering applications for redeeming MMM shares held by the most vulnerable sectors of the population.

Mavrodi added that those investors willing to sell their MMM shares at 130,000 rubles per share would have to wait for such a quotation until mid-February 1995 and those seeking to sell MMM shares at an even higher rate would have to wait "some time more."

Mavrodi told an Interfax correspondent that reports claiming that MMM intends to appeal to banking structures for credits were "lies and a provocation."

Mavrodi said after his election in the State Duma he considers protection of the interests of MMM investors and protecting MMM from "forceful actions" as his main task. Mavrodi said he was ready to "take political actions" for this purpose if necessary.

Mavrodi said he believed that he would manage to create his own deputy group in the State Duma within ten days. He added that in the beginning his group would be open

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to all parliamentarians. Mavrodi specially thanked leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia Vladimir Zhirinovskiy for his support.

Mavrodi said projects MMM has lined up include selling shares in the West.

Central Bank 'Not Responsible' for Others' Liabilities

MM0311153494 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Nov 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Russian Bank Not Responsible for Commercial Banks' Liabilities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Bank of Russia press service made the following announcement on 1 November:

"In view of the fact that the Central Bank of Russia is receiving queries and complaints about the discontinuation by certain banks of dividend payments to investors and transfers of money to organizations' accounts, the Russian Bank press service offers the following explanation:

"A Central Bank of Russia licence to perform banking transactions confirms that the requisite conditions exist for a commercial bank to commence activities. Moreover, its activities become the object of banking oversight.

"At the same time, the commercial bank, as a corporate body, independently determines its own credit policy, the procedure and conditions governing loans, and the way they are used.

"In turn, individuals and corporate bodies independently select banks for temporary credit services and for the investment of spare money.

"Commercial banks' relationships with customers are based on contracts defining the sides' rights and obligations. All commercial banks are obliged to fully observe their commitments under the contracts they have concluded, including deposit liabilities.

"The Bank of Russia is not responsible for commercial banks' liabilities. Russian Federation legislation stipulates that all disputes arising as a result of a breach of contract by one of the sides will be examined in accordance with the complaints and claims procedure.

"So in order to decide property rights in the event of a bank's failure to meet its commitments, investors should apply to the people's court in the area where the bank is situated."

Agriculture Minister Urged To Respond to Market

MM0411123094 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 4 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Lyudmila Biryukova: "Suggestion for New Agrarian Minister. Based Not on His Party and Kolkhoz Generals, But on Market"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Aleksandr Nazarchuk, the new Russian Federation minister of agriculture and food, has embarked on his duties. This appointment has caused a lot of fuss in political circles. A kolkhoz general and one of the leaders of the Agrarian Party is now at the helm of the sector that is hardest to reform. There will now be hardly any point in talking about reforms in the countryside—that was how Yegor Gaydar, leader of the "Russia's Choice" faction, put it.

But the grain market has not reacted to this event in any way whatsoever. Despite the fact that it is now the peak of business activity in the market. What is going on? Only a monopoly can display Olympian calm in such a situation, but we already have a market of a sort where thousands of corporations operate—so there is no question of a monopoly. The largest of these corporations are the "Roskhleboprodukt" and "Eksportkhleb" firms, the Moscow Commodities Exchange, the "OGO" Joint-Stock Trading Company, the Kuzbass Grain Company, the "Tomskiye Melnitsy" Association, "Donzernoprodukt," and loads of regional companies.... Are they really all indifferent to the new minister's line, all the more so as he has made it quite clear in his speeches—to secure budget injections into the agrarian sector, to take measures to protect our market from "food intervention" from abroad, to increase import duties, and so forth?

The public has immediately sounded the alarm and experts have started predicting a return of food shortages, price rises for foodstuffs, and social upheavals. But there has been no panic in the market.

Here is how Arkadiy Zlochevskiy, chairman of the board of the Grain Union, explained this phenomenon: "We and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food are like two parallel lines that do not intersect. The ministry is still following its old habit of trying to administer things, even though the levers have all been destroyed. The only lever remaining is money and subsidies. But even this lever is losing its power, given the tough policy that the government has announced. It is high time for it to realize that throwing money at agricultural producers is useless. We need to subsidize specific goods. Products that the market needs. That will be sensible."

The former minister, Viktor Khlystun, who has subsequently received a lot of warm tributes about his professional qualities and progressive views, came to realize toward the end of his rule that the functions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food should be altered. He did not have time to do anything, since he was forced to quit. The political situation required a reshuffle from the president. How long will we now have to wait for new minister A. Nazarchuk to see the need for change? Assuming he is bent on change, of course.

At any rate, the entrepreneurs operating in the grain and other agricultural produce markets have no great sense of optimism on this score. Incidentally, they are prepared to make a suggestion to the new minister. In their

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opinion, one of the ministry's main functions should be to collate and disseminate sectoral information. The apparatus of officials currently hangs on to this information and considers it its duty not to allow any leaks about the structure of sowing, the existence of seeds, harvest results for the regions, the structure of consumption, and so forth. The leaders of the "OGO" Joint-Stock Trading Company recount the tale of how they managed to find out the grain balance for last year as if it were a real achievement. Major companies have been forced to set up departments to collect and accumulate the information they need.

Anyone who fails to do this and pins their hopes on the ministry could end up looking stupid. This has already happened to several firms. Here is a typical example. The amount of land sown to sunflowers increased sharply this year. Many procurement companies rushed to conclude contracts for the shipment of seeds abroad, since customers were available. Operating in the dark and at their own risk, since the information was top secret, our procurement workers undertook to deliver a total of 1.2 million tonnes of seeds. But Russian ports are capable of handling only 800,000 tonnes. Facing the threat of failing to meet their commitments to their partners, certain firms are now trying to dispatch the cargo via Ukrainian ports—Ilichevsk and others. When they calculated how much this will cost, it transpired that the deals would be loss-makers. And it is no longer just a question of seeds.

Providing recommendations for agricultural producers and giving information to businessmen—that is what the market expects from the ministry. Otherwise, everyone will reckon that the ministry is no use at all.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Retribution Seen in Grachev's Latest Move

MK0411082094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Nov 94 p 1

[Letter by a group of officers under the "Letter" rubric: "Russian Federation Defense Minister Gives Instructions. Pavel Grachev Taking Revenge on CIS Collective Security?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to information received from informed sources in the Russian Federation Defense Ministry, during a conference of the ministry's leading personnel on 1 November 1994, P. Grachev instructed Colonel General B. Gromov and Lieutenant General V. Zhurbenko to draw up, within 10 days, proposals on a 30 percent reduction of the authorized strength of the CIS Military Cooperation Staff. It can be presumed with a high degree of probability that such instructions of the Russian defense minister were directly occasioned by an open letter to the Russian president by Col. Serafim Yushkov, head of the CIS Military Cooperation Staff press center, in which the colonel subjected P. Grachev to sharp criticism.

In this connection, there arise a number of questions to Army Gen. P. Grachev, defense minister of Russia.

1. Is it possible, out of a primitive personal feeling of vengeance, to take steps toward what is actually the destruction of the only interstate military structure in charge of collective security of the Commonwealth of Independent States?

2. What business does the defense minister of one CIS state have to cut the authorized strength of the entire interstate body whose structure and strength has been determined by the Council of the Heads of Commonwealth States?

3. Why, as chairman of the CIS Defense Council (which, incidentally, is temporary—until the end of 1994), should the defense minister of Russia make a unilateral decision on cutting the CIS Military Cooperation Staff, which expresses the defense interests of all the Commonwealth states?

4. Does Army Gen. P. Grachev feel his field of activity in ruining the Russian Armed Forces is not wide enough, and he should now begin destroying what remains of CIS collective security?

5. Is not the instruction on cutting the authorized strength of the Military Cooperation Staff (where, incidentally, nearly 200 servicemen from nine CIS states serve) a confirmation of those negative qualities of P.S. Grachev described in the colonel's open letter to the Russian Federation president?

...

[signed]**A group of officers**

P.S. Literally one hour before the above conference, a collegium of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry sat to discuss the questions of strengthening legality in the Russian Armed Forces. P. Grachev must have made correct conclusions on the results of its work.

Boldyrev Sees 'Campaign' Behind WGF Scandal

MM0411124594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Nov 94 p 5

[Interview with Federation Council Deputy Yuriy Boldyrev, former Russian Main State Inspector, by Nikolay Burbyga and Valeriy Yakov, date and place not given: "Yuriy Boldyrev: What Matters Is Not Who Stole or How Much But How This Became Possible"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [IZVESTIYA] Yuriy Yuryevich, in your report to the president in November 1992 you raised among other things the question of the professional fitness of Matvey Burlakov, commander in chief of the Western Group of Forces [WGF]. Less than two years have passed and the president seems to have heeded your suggestion. But before doing so he found time to appoint the commander in chief to the post of deputy [defense] minister. For just six weeks. What new

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facts do you think that president could have found out since then to make him change his mind so quickly?

[Boldyrev] I doubt if there are any new facts. It is more likely that he "remembered" some old ones. In principle suspending someone from office while an investigation is in progress is normal. But I would still like to know what the facts are precisely and who is going to investigate them, albeit two years after the event. After all, as recently emerged from a speech by a candidate for the general prosecutor's job at the Federation Council, the findings in my report have not been questioned by anyone over the past two years, nor have they been refuted or reexamined.

[IZVESTIYA] The main accusations leveled at Burlakov have been actively repeated recently by various publications, for the most part simply repeating the main theses of your report and adding hardly anything new. Could you recall for us why it was that you suddenly decided to deal with the problem of the WGF two years ago?

[Boldyrev] In connection with the publication of certain other information in the Western press I put the proposal to the president, and when he agreed I sent a commission to the WGF. The commission worked for a limited period of time, that is it stripped away only the top layer, the things that could be established by a simple audit. Of all that material only those facts which were indisputable and had been absolutely confirmed by documentary evidence went into the final report.

Incidentally, the "Boldyrev report" does not mean that I or the Control Commission would lay claim to being first to discover what was going on (I personally did not even visit the WGF). The commission included representatives of the Ministries of Security and Internal Affairs, the General Prosecutor's Office, and many other structures.

[IZVESTIYA] In that case why has your report become a byword, and why has it been cited periodically for the past two years as virtually the only expose on the WGF?

[Boldyrev] This was a normal, routine check. We conduct about 40 a year. But this check related to matters happening outside the country. Consequently it had an international impact.

The second thing is that there was an information leak.

[IZVESTIYA] But how did a document from the president's immediate entourage not simply become public knowledge but also first get into the Western press and then get quoted in detail in Germany?

[Boldyrev] "First off" I received a phone call from a high-ranking member of the Presidential Staff, a Russian deputy, and he said that he wanted to talk to me in connection with the fact that his name featured in the report.... The leak happened during the examination of these materials, which were already virtually ready at the State Legal Administration. Unlike most other occasions, this time the State Legal Administration held on to the documents for quite a long time, although I cannot claim that the leak occurred from there.

[IZVESTIYA] What was the president's reaction to your report?

[Boldyrev] On 16 November 1992 I reported in detail to the president in person, one on one. We agreed that I would formulate everything and submit it officially with the draft of an appropriate edict.

On 23 November I sent the president the official report. From then on I received no reaction from him at all. Apart from Burlakov's subsequent appointment as deputy minister and A. Ilyushenko's extremely rapid promotion to the leadership of the General Prosecutor's Office—as I understand it, that man was used 18 months ago to create the impression that the stories of corruption in the WGF were untrue.

[IZVESTIYA] Was this report not one of the reasons for your dismissal?

[Boldyrev] I could cite many other episodes. For example, in the summer of 1992 the president instructed me, through his aide Ilyushin, to terminate the routine examination of the work of the Moscow administration dealing with privatization questions, land allocation, and foreign economic activity. I refused, and that forced the president to sign a written instruction, dated and numbered, which was cited in full in my directive to stop the investigation. (This investigation has still not been terminated, merely suspended). That case alone, I think, was sufficient to start the search for someone who would be more tractable.

Among the arguments that I put to the president for the need to continue the investigation was the case of the privatization of the Luzhniki sports complex, which needed to be confirmed or refuted. According to the preliminary information a succession of decrees had been adopted on the addition of real estate to the complex, on the allocation of additional plots of land, on tax concessions, and so forth. Thew penultimate decision was to allocate 45 million rubles [R] to Luzhniki to buy seats. But immediately after that the final decree was passed privatizing the entire Luzhniki complex for... R90 million. These were among the many facts that we were unable to reassess.

[IZVESTIYA] Does it not seem to you that the present scandal over the WGF has been blown up so as to divert attention from more important figures and from intrigues on a larger scale. Grachev and Burlakov will probably be the fall guys, and the entire scandal surrounding the WGF will be consigned to oblivion along with them. In your view, which of the present leaders on the Presidential Staff specifically has an interest in seeing the scandal end this way?

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[Boldyrev] However justified the wave of indignation in the press is, I still have the feeling that there is some of campaign going on. Why now, precisely? Is there something that someone did not know two years ago? And why is its scope being kept so narrow—confined to the Army alone?

When those people who held key posts in the "liberal reform" government two years ago, and not only gave us no help but actually obstructed us, now suddenly start adopting resolutions in political counsels demanding that the defense minister be called to account and dismissed, I want to ask them: Is the scale of corruption in the Army really greater than in other state structures?

Ultimately the question of who stole and how much is really the question of how all this became possible and why it is happening now but on an incomparably greater scale. There is a logical sequence here. Previously the "antireform" parliament exercised at least some kind of monitoring, deterrent function. But under the Constitution which is considered adopted in our country, which the president proposed and, to put it mildly, pushed through, and which the "democratic forces" and the "democratic intelligentsia" supported, parliament has no monitoring powers at all now. And all the talk of parliamentary hearings in the Duma is a bluff, because there simply is not a single official who is obliged to appear at these parliamentary hearings and testify to them.

Right now we are working on drafting a law on the audit office [schetnaya palata]. What has been going on? We get amendments from the head of our state. For what purpose? Is it to make this monitoring more effective? Unfortunately, it is the very opposite: It is to ensure that the powers of the audit office are significantly limited. And specifically to ensure that it does not have the power to monitor the disposal of state property, for example, through the budget and for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of the budget. In other words, the situation is like this: In accordance with the amendments from the "guarantor of our Constitution," the audit office is restricted to checking whether or not R10 have been paid into the budget for the sale of some site. But on no account is it to have the power to investigate why that particular site has been sold for just R10 rather than R10 billion. That is far more serious than the question of why the president or the defense minister reacted in a specific way to a specific report containing specific facts.

[IZVESTIYA] Nevertheless, a scandal did break out over the WGF. Do you not feel that all of this is being directed by some skilled operative for his own purposes?

[Boldyrev] It seems that the rats will soon be leaving the sinking ship. Many people want to distance themselves not just from Grachev but also gradually from the president and pin much of the blame on them, including the blame for shelling their own parliament. What I am trying to get across to people is that the root of the problem is that the deliberate policy of our entire present executive, including the head of state and everyone who supported and continues to support him, is to concentrate in their hands the full panoply of absolutely uncontrolled power allegedly for the sake of the reforms. But such power inevitably becomes mafia power, and that is already obvious.

[IZVESTIYA] Tell us, please, why it is mainly military people who feature in your report and the criminal investigation documents, even though it was not the Group command but the president's personal representative at Russian ministerial level, the many government commissions, and the leadership of the State Committee for the Management of State Property who were responsible for the sale of WGF property and facilities, as laid down in presidential edicts and government decrees? Were there really no cases of corruption in their own ranks? Why didn't a bunch of high-ranking Moscow officials hurry to investigate them?

[Boldyrev] As I recall, there were instances of that kind. I am not going to name names now, but I believe that one military prosecutor's office employee was called to account. I do not remember whether the case reached its logical conclusion. Our report also contained suggestions on reducing the large number of duplicate structures in the WGF.

[IZVESTIYA] In your view, who might have killed Kholodov, and why has no one tried to kill Boldyrev yet, given that you have far more facts and documents in your possession?

[Boldyrev] We do not know who killed Kholodov. But if his death is connected with the investigation into the WGF it is possible to say who bears a considerable degree of the moral and political responsibility for it. If the president had taken adequate measures in the past, at least in response to our report, the criminal investigation would have taken a different track. And perhaps Dmitriy Kholodov would not have had to take such risks.

As for myself, I have never taken part in personal investigations. What interests me is that there be order in my country. I directed the entire work of the control administration to that end. Consequently no one has any "compromising materials" stored in secret depositories.

[IZVESTIYA] Does that mean that indirectly the president carries the blame for Kholodov's death?

[Boldyrev] If his death is linked to the investigation into the WGF, then of course that is so. In addition, why was blood shed a year ago? For the victory of democracy, or to concentrate the full panoply of uncontrolled power in one man's hands?

[IZVESTIYA] Could you name specific, non-Army representatives of that power who have patently abused this lack of control?

[Boldyrev] Two years ago I cited many examples. Now I shall limit myself to just one. In 1992 the "reform"

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government adopted an unlawful decision to give AKKOR [the Association of Russian Peasant (Private) Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives], an ordinary public organization, the monopoly right to dispose of taxpayers' money meant to provide support for farmers. Without any obligations or control mechanisms whatsoever. A quite complicated check was conducted via the tax organs. Instances of the large-scale misuse of funds were revealed. A report was sent to the president and the government. A proposal was submitted, saying: Please, if you really are liberals, announce an open competition among public and commercial organizations for the right to dispose of this money. Or else transfer the funds through state structures and local administrations. For six months correspondence went back and forth. Nothing happened. And six months later the ministers who had enabled that public organization to get rich at the taxpayers' expense got together to found the well-known political bloc "Russia's Choice." Do I need to name names?

There are many examples. But how was this possible? The slogan was bandied about in society that only large private fortunes concentrated in a few pairs of hands could be the engine of the economy and that to make the transition from bad old socialism to good, new capitalism there first had to be a frenzied and crude accumulation of capital. However, there was no other way of rapidly concentrating capital in individuals' hands than by plundering their own state. They say that "thieves are better than murderers," don't they? But don't thieves become murderers themselves?

How many more people like Dmitriy Kholodov will have to die before the mass media takes an interest in such shady dealings as check privatization, for example? After all, the scale is immeasurably greater.

Forces Lack Means for 'Basic Survival'

MM0411105394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Nov 94 pp 1, 3

[Article by Ivan Ivanyuk: "The 1995 Military Budget: Ultimate Strength Must Be Taken Into Consideration When Introducing Tough Economy Measures"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our newspaper has of late paid very careful attention to Armed Forces funding issues. But, as you can see, that is not enough: The idea that the Army and Navy are the main "parasites" and virtually the cause of all economic difficulties is doggedly being drummed into public consciousness. This is a fabrication, a myth, and in order to destroy it we are beginning a series of articles under the rubric "The Budget and the Army: What Is Behind the Spending Figures," which will, we hope, succeed in convincing even the most inveterate skeptics that the Defense Ministry is not asking for anything unnecessary. The editorial office has at its disposal documents, facts, figures, and estimates that we simply have no right to hush up.

The signs of the last few days—reports of the supposed change in the membership of the government, the constant attention paid by top echelons of power to the procedure for ratifying the 1995 budget, etc—show increasingly clearly that the process of adopting the budget will primarily be political. And it may be that compromises here will relegate to the back burner the economic and social crux of the document by which the country will live in the foreseeable future. However, the draft budget that the government has submitted to the State Duma elicits a host of questions which require, regardless of the political situation, clear and lucid answers. We will dwell on what worries the Army community in this connection.

For the last three years KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has tried to demonstrate that the appropriations allocated throughout this period for defense needs are not merely inadequate, but the catastrophic shortage of such appropriations is leading to a dramatic weakening of the country's defense capability, the destruction of the Armed Forces, and an increase in social tension in military collectives. No one is opposed to the idea that military spending should be cut back, but it is necessary to do this in a sensible, consistent manner and not strive to scrimp on the kopeks in order then to shell out rubles.

Regrettably the government draft military budget for 1995 continues the same destructive line manifested particularly clearly in the recent economic troubles—nonpayment of debts, financial crisis, etc. Whereas this year the Defense Ministry's claim has been 50-percent met on paper (in reality the figure was far less), in next year's draft budget it is covered by little over a third. The total military spending planned "on high" (44.0 trillion rubles [R]) is even a little less than the amount really required for the upkeep of the Army and Navy alone. Payments necessary for people's vital activity are behind every line of this section of expenditure. Experience has shown (totally good-for-nothing experience, however) that these payments can be delayed for a month or two, but then debts must be paid one way or another. And if the entire military budget is spent on the upkeep of the Army and Navy, that means that there will not be a single kopek left to pay for arms and military hardware, scientific developments, capital construction, including housing, or servicemen's pensions.

The list can go on and on. The government intends to spend R23 trillion on the upkeep of the Army and Navy. Elementary calculations indicate that R21.2 trillion are needed just to pay servicemen's wages and civilian personnel salaries. Yet this first section of the Defense Ministry estimate contains another 90 items of expenditure—payment for fuel, food, communications services, upkeep of kindergartens.... Where is the money for this to come from? If we speed up the reduction in the Armed Forces, that will give rise to even more problems, primarily social ones.

The draft military budget makes no provision for even a minimum raise in pay and wages. It looks as though,

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despite inflation and despite the promises to compensate the population for losses incurred as a result of the recent fall in the ruble exchange rate, the government has no intention of indexing the level of military pay throughout the 12 months of 1995. Promises to boost this level of pay to the level prevailing in other power structures are also "up in the air." If that is true, both the government and the Duma should state their intentions honestly and openly, if indeed the Duma does run the risk of approving this draft military budget.

It follows from statements made by ideologists supporting the tough line of stabilizing the economy in 1995 that the main merit of the budget assigned in the light of the new trends is that for the first time in recent years it will be realistic and undoubtedly feasible. Permit me to doubt that. If we are talking about realistic estimates, they by no means square with the socioeconomic forecasts for next year. According to Economy Ministry estimates, the GDP deflation index will stand at roughly 1.7. We have already criticized the government a month ago for the rate of 1.34 "applied" to defense spending next year. So, given the government's proposed "new reality," even that kind of indexation of military spending can only be a dream—the intention is to increase it by just a few percent.

Nor do I have much faith in the military budget's being unconditionally fulfilled next year, no matter at how low a level it is pitched. A host of superficial factors prompt that conclusion. It is exceptionally disadvantageous for the Finance Ministry as the dispensing department to let go of such a powerful lever as the opportunity to share out money. But this lever only operates, as is customary, in deficit conditions. This year, when this principle was not observed despite the adopted decision for defense needs to be funded regardless of budget revenue, clearly showed that the Finance Ministry likes to play games without rules. What is more, throughout the year the Defense Ministry had considerably worse funding than other power structures. To date, with just two months remaining until the end of the year, the military department has been allocated less than half the funds prescribed by law. And this—there is no harm in repeating ourselves—in conditions whereby pay and wages in all power structures are considerably higher than in the Defense Ministry.

We can also doubt the feasibility of the "plan proportions [gromadye]" because inflation, which has been artificially kept in check throughout the year, has of late persistently escaped control, and it is not known how it will act next year. Utimately the debts must be dealt with—that is now a matter of honor for the government. The Defense Ministry was promised that last year's "residue" would be repaid in the first quarter of 1994. Less than half was returned. And since then debts have begun to snowball. You can see from the following table what real changes there had been by late October compared with 1 January....

Report on Russian Defense Ministry's Indebtedness in Respect of Items of Spending (Billion Rubles)

[Columns in the following table represent as follows: Column A—Figure As of 1 January 1994; Column B—Figure As of 24 October 1994]

	A	B
1. Upkeep of Army and Navy	742.0	3392.9
including:		
Pay and wages	130.0	325.9
Food	150.0	194.0
Clothing and related gear	32.0	95.0
Fuel	40.0	245.0
Military shipments	117.0	453.0
Municipal spending	177.0	660.0
Repair of arms and military hardware		
at economically accountable		
Defense Ministry enterprises	98.0	357.0
Command post and airfield running costs,		
auxiliary fleet operational spending,		
medical and economic expenditure	58.0	1063.0
2. Arms and military hardware	757.0	1500.0
3. Capital construction and repairs	218.0	1000.0
4. Research and experimental design work	382.0	1000.0
TOTAL	2159.0	6892.6

A bankrupt inviting everyone to a banquet would probably provoke less of a wry smile than the current government enthusiasts who, if they promise budget funds, make a cast-iron promise. And the state should now certainly concern itself primarily with not becoming totally bankrupt itself, that is with swelling the revenue section of the budget, rather than trying to share out the remaining crumbs from the banquet in the expenditure sections of the budget. They will not please anyone, since it is no longer a question now of allowances and privileges but of basic survival. At least, that is the situation in the Army and Navy.

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Far East Still Beset by Nuclear Waste Problem

MM0311155794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Nov 94 p 4

[Report by Natalya Ostrovskaya: "Who Is To Purify the Waste From the Submarines?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladivostok—Unlike last year's scandal surrounding the dumping of the Pacific Fleet's liquid radioactive waste in the Sea of Japan, the international tender for designs of installations to purify this waste announced on 14 October this year has been proceeding without undue hullabaloo or fuss.

Several months ago, as is well known, experts from Russia, Japan, and Britain (the latter represented by the independent consultancy firm the Crown Agents) opted for a floating barge-like installation. The plan is that it will sail along the Maritime Kray coast and collect low-level liquid radioactive waste—by-products of the recycling of Pacific Fleet submarines—for purification. But given the deadline for the tender (the result will not be known until early December) and the time required to commission the barge, this very desirable solution to what is an ecological, technological, and by its nature political problem will be delayed at least until the middle of next year.

Meanwhile, in Maritime Kray the situation surrounding the liquid radioactive waste remains complex even though the local authorities and the public have temporarily fallen silent. In a concession to Japan's requests the Russian side is continuing to keep its promise not to dump liquid radioactive waste in the Sea of Japan for any reason whatsoever. That is why 1,700 tonnes of radioactive sludge are still being stored in Maritime Kray in two world famous ramshackle tankers—the TNT-5 and the TNT-27. Back in May the fleet carried out a complex operation to move these almost untransportable "combat units" from the bay at the city of Bolshoy Kamen to a deserted location—Pavlovskogo Bay—which is where the tankers are currently moored. Furthermore, a test installation for purifying liquid radioactive waste designed and produced by "Ekoatom," a non-state firm based in Moscow, has been taken there. Around 100 tonnes of waste has already been purified using this installation but, the specialists believe, it will not resolve the overall problem.

The problem is not just one of the persistent threat of the contamination of enclosed sea bays—production has stopped at the "Zvezda" Plant, the only nuclear submarine dismantling base, because all the fleet's existing storage capacities are already full to the brim with liquid radioactive waste. Since May the manufacturing processes connected with the formation of liquid radioactive waste have been standing idle here. And by all accounts that situation will continue at least another six months.

Nevertheless, the tender has finally been announced and thus things have started to move. It is impossible to predict who is going to win the tender right now because the list of participants is not being divulged. What is known is that these firms are from Japan and the United States. The report which has appeared in the press on the participation of the Russian side in the international tender for the liquid radioactive waste purification installation is most probably wrong. That is the view of Yevgeniy Stomatyuk, chairman of the Maritime Kray Administration's Natural Resources Committee, who noted at the same time however that the participation of Russian firms in this tender cannot be ruled out, but only as a subcontractor to a Japanese firm. That is very close to the truth because, within the framework of a global program, Japan itself is paying for "everything."

It has emerged that Russia will pay for something, too. Yevgeniy Stomatyuk announced that the Finance Ministry has already set aside 2 billion rubles for the construction of a special mooring for the barge at the "Zvezda" Plant in Bolshoy Kamen. After a long battle with Moscow and its ministries, the Maritime Kray Administration has been named as the client for the construction of the entire complex of liquid radioactive waste purification installations. The administration has been empowered to conclude a contract with the firm that wins the tender.

Here is another interesting detail. On 14 October, the day that the tender was announced, a sample of liquid radioactive waste was flown from Vladivostok in a special flask to the English town of Gavr [name as transliterated]. Specialists from the Crown Agents are thoroughly examining the contents of the flask there. Clearly the international community still has no great confidence in our country's calculations. Meanwhile, our Russian specialists have voiced the opinion that for over a year now the two dilapidated tankers have been storing not liquid radioactive waste at all but something far more innocuous—low-level irradiated sea water. I wonder what the tender-winning firm will actually be purifying and, to be honest, what is going on here.

'Resurs-01' Satellite Launched From Baykonur

LD0411081794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0801 GMT 4 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS string correspondent Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 4 TASS—A two-stage "Zenit-2" carrier-rocket was launched at 8 hours 47 minutes Moscow time today by the Russian military-space forces from the Baykonur cosmodrome's 45th launching ramp. It placed a "Resurs-01" (n0.3) sputnik on a solar-synchronic orbit. The sputnik is designed to study the earth's natural resources.

ITAR-TASS has learned at the press centre of the Russian military-space forces that the launching was successful. The sputnik was placed on an orbit with parameters close to the calculated ones.

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Soyuz Undocks, Begins Countdown for Landing

LD0411082894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0805 GMT 4 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 4 TASS—At ten hours 29 minutes Soyuz TM-19 spaceship undocked from the station and began to move away.

The countdown for the landing of the descendable module of the spacecraft began from that moment, ITAR-TASS learned at the press centre of the Russian military space forces. In the module are cosmonauts Yuriy Malenchenko, Talgat Musabayev and astronaut of the European Space Community Ulf Merbold. The soft-landing is to take place in about three and a half hours.

Module Lands Safely in Kazakhstan

LD0411115494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1135 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 4 Nov (ITAR-TASS)—At 1418 Moscow time the landing module of the "Soyuz TM-19" spacecraft made a soft landing 79 km northeast of Arkalyk (Kazakhstan).

Yuriy Malenchenko and Talgat Musabayev, who have been in orbit since 1 July, as well as Ulf Merbold, the German representative of the European Space Agency who spent about one month in space, are back on Earth.

Regional Affairs

Shafranik on Oil Spill, Service Stations

MM0411100594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Sergey Leskov: "Five Months To Actually Build First Super Service Station, Two Years To Persuade Functionaries"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first of 250 service stations, promised to motorists by Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, has opened in Moscow, at the very end of Dmitrovskoye Highway. The station is owned by Lukoil, Russia's largest oil company, and it cost the company $1.2 million. The estimated cost recoupment time is two years.

There is no point in describing the variety of services offered at this station—it is better to call in and see it for yourselves. The difference between it and our normal service stations is the same as that between a modern fighter aircraft and the Wright brothers' airplane. Prices are set by the Moscow [City] Government and are no higher than normal prices.

Lukoil won the tender organized by the Moscow Government and was initially allowed to build 50 service stations. But, as Lukoil-Moskva Company President Nikolay Chumak admitted, the bureaucratic complexities during the process of building the station were such that it is hardly unlikely that more than 10 service stations will actually be built. The project had to be coordinated with 49 different offices, some functionaries could not be contacted by telephone for weeks on end. The actual project, whose specifications meet all world standards, had to be modified and remodified because it did not meet the antediluvian Russian standards based on old technologies. In reply to these complaints, Yuriy Luzhkov said that he has signed a decree simplifying the bureaucratic procedures.

Minister of Fuel and Energy Yuriy Shafranik also appeared at the opening ceremony. This was the first occasion when the leader of Russia's fuel and energy complex publicly stated his opinion regarding the ecological disaster on the pipeline near Usinsk. In the minister's opinion, the hullabaloo around the accident is out of all proportion with its actual scale and can be attributed to gamesmanship by parties interested in bringing down the Komineft Joint-Stock Company's share price. Lukoil officials who were present bluntly identified the villain of the peace—the U.S. company Conoco which operates in that region and is secretly buying Komineft shares. The complex game of oil price differentials in Russia and the United States has already resulted in a recent sharp rise of Conoco share prices.

There are, however, other opinions regarding the accident near Usinsk. Specialists from Greenpeace—an organization which can hardly be suspected of being biased—who have arrived at the disaster site together with the governor of Alaska, believe that "an international ecological calamity" has occured. "We are dealing with a major ecological disaster, here there is not even a hint of international efforts to eliminate the consequences of the accident, and frost has set in in the meantime. Nobody knows the real extent of the spill. Oil is everywhere. People living here claim that oil is spilling constantly, but the latest spill is the largest," Paul Horseman, the company's oil coordinator, said. Suspicions are voiced that the Russian authorities are blocking access to the worst-hit areas and are showing sectors that have already been cleaned up instead.

An expert sudy conducted by the Nordeco Russian-U.S. Joint Ecological Enterprise has shown that the volume of oil spilled from the pipeline near Usinsk (Republic of Komi) runs to about 103,000 tons. The investigation conducted by the Russian commission for emergency situations has revealed that the volume of oil lost from the Komineft transportation system is only 14,033 tons.

Pipeline Registers 'No More Oil Leaks'

LD0311180494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1747 GMT 3 Nov 94

["No More Oil Leaks Registered on Pipeline in Russia's North"—ITAR-TASS headline; by ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Makarov]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Usinsk (Komi Republic) November 3 TASS—There are no oil leaks out of the blocked Usinsk main pipeline in northern Russia, according to Yuriy Yemelyanov, head of a group of St. Petersburg experts carrying out aerial photography of the pipeline segment where the incident took place.

The experts are surveying the area from board a laboratory plane AN-24, which was called to the scene of the disaster by the Russian Ministry for Emergencies.

In September and October, the 720-mm line was broken at many points, causing a large-scale contamination of a remote area of 62 square kilometres. Two tributaries of the Pechora River, the Usa and the Kolva, were polluted, with some oil reaching the Pechora itself.

There are different opinions as to the scale of the disaster. The company Komineft, which owns the pipeline, and the local authorities maintain that the total leakage made up 14,000 tons of oil, while the Ministry for Emergencies puts this figure at 30,000 tons, and local ecologists, as well as experts from the Greenpeace environmental group, assert that 200,000 tons of oil leaked out of the pipeline to pollute the adjacent area.

Communist Chairman Speaks on Kaliningrad Visit

WS0311141494 Kaliningrad KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Oct 94 p 2

[Interview with Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, by N. Budoyan in Kaliningrad; date not given: "Run By Those Who Yelled: 'I Want To Be at the Helm' We Are Drifting Without an Aim and May Soon Be Stranded"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Budoyan] What is the principal goal of your visit to Kaliningrad?

[Zyuganov] In the last couple of weeks I toured the country and again, saw for myself how unpopular is the course pursued by the current government. It is absolutely ruinous, be it in the North Caucasus, the Volga region, Siberia, or Kaliningrad Oblast. On the one hand, I want to take this opportunity to tell Kaliningrad residents about events in other parts of Russia. On the other hand, I would like to reach an accord with the broad opposition regarding joint activities in the near future. In fact, the opposition's elite has arrived here to take part in the congress of patriotic forces. Those are young, knowledgeable people who have personal authority and appropriate programs. The "Russian Limit" [Russkiy Rubezh], which has invited us here, is a symbol of a certain limit which we cannot transgress while backing away. Otherwise, we will totally lose our state.

[Budoyan] Despite the current government's unpopular moves, particularly in privatization, the ownership issue remains the major barrier to reform. Is the Communist Party still against private property?

[Zyuganov] For a long time, the principal issues—those of ownership, power, and land were unbalanced in our country. The Communist Party and the USSR had monopoly on the truth, power, and property. However, every monopoly produces stagnation and a loss of the sense of reality. After numerous discussions, our party came to the conclusion that a national development doctrine is an indispensable requisite of the state's normal development. This doctrine should be based on historic-cultural traditions and an optimal correlation between the forms of ownership—state-public, collective, and private. This correlation depends on historic traditions and the type of basis inherited by Russia.

I am sure, and this is our principal standpoint, that the state- public form of ownership is most acceptable from the perspective of our national character and the psychology of Russians. Historically, the type of economy inherited by Russia had not developed in the last 70 years; it had developed since the epoch of Peter the Great. Even Emperor Nicholas' treasury received 60 percent of the revenues from state-run enterprises. We advocate a combination of various forms of ownership. A private sector, too, should exist, but preference should be given to the state-public form.

[Budoyan] This is not your first visit to Kaliningrad. What does our region mean to you?

[Zyuganov] To me, this is a territory conquered by our ancestors. Kaliningrad Oblast is our state's westernmost point and a place which we cannot abandon, for this would continue to ruin the state. A bizarre process is currently under way—the Russians have been spiritually impoverished and accustomed to heavy drinking, and now they are being pushed away from their territories. By tolerating this policy, we would commit a crime against the nation and its future generations.

[Budoyan] The presence of troops in our region has recently fueled discussions on compatibility of tanks with a free zone. What is your attitude toward this problem?

[Zyuganov] I will be frank—this is a felonious discussion. A large continental state must have a strong reliable army. The bipolar world collapsed as a result of the blameworthy perestroyka that destroyed the Soviet Union. A new geopolitical map is currently being drawn up, which produces conflicts, ruins, and opposition of civilizations. The historic balance of interests can only be preserved through the preservation of the balance of forces. At this point, there is no other way to resolve conflicts. Let us recall our national history and how Russia's heroic regiments pacified enemies.

[Budoyan] The Communist Party of the Soviet Union [CPSU] was at the helm for 70 years. Is it not time it took a rest?

[Zyuganov] The CPSU was not a party; it was a state-controlling structure, just as the Russians were the backbone of the nation. That is why the CPSU's disintegration resulted in the disintegration of the Soviet Union,

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and attempts to diminish the role of Russians may cause other nations to disappear from the political map. Armenians, for instance, were a big nation within the USSR, but in the last two years 600,000 Armenians have emigrated.

Run by those who yelled: 'I want to be at the helm' we have lost our helm and sails, and are now drifting without aim, and may soon be stranded. Those should be at the helm who have the skills, who know how to manage things, how to work for the national benefit.

[Budoyan] All the opposition parties claim this. Will their leaders be able to reach an agreement about the unity of actions? In my opinion, their personal ambitions are too big. Rutskoy wants to remain Rutskoy, and Baburin wants to remain Baburin. What about Zyuganov?

[Zyuganov] Leaders are not bricks in the wall; they are people who have personal views and characters. It is very important to gain from combining their efforts. I am ready for unification as an equal member, and that is why I have long been chairman of the Council of National-Patriotic Forces, which comprises a lot of parties, movements and trends, as well as talented individuals. The need to unite is very urgent and I already have a clear vision of a union of patriotic forces based on our party, the agrarians, a Russian national party, the Association of Manufacturers and Entrepreneurs, women's and veterans' organizations.

There is another rule—after all the troubled times Russia emerged as a more consolidated, strong, and purified nation. I am sure my motherland will soon become this kind of state.

Maritime Territory Receives State Energy Aid

LD0411100494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0852 GMT 4 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladivostok November 4 TASS—"The state will help the Maritime Territory of Russia to overcome the current most acute energy crisis," director-general of the "Rosugol" company Yuriy Malyshev told a press conference for Russian and foreign journalists here today.

Malyshev, who ranks among the top leaders of the Russian fuel and energy complex, came to the Maritime Territory of Russia to study the situation on the spot, to see why a huge part of the Russian Far East is so badly short of energy on the threshold of winter. The press conference was also attended by representatives from the coal enterprises, railways, and power-generating plants of the Russian Far East.

They noted with alarm that the coal pits of the Maritime Territory, which used to produced more than 22 million tonnes of coal only a few years ago, are now steadily reducing coal extraction by seven per cent annually. Malyshev said in this connection that the state was prepared to pay more for every tonne of coal mined over and above the production quota, but this called for more vigorous efforts on the part of the miners.

Malyshev stated that measures were being taken to overcome the energy crisis. The Luchegorsk open-cast coal mine, one of the leading local coal suppliers, was reinforced with top-class specialists and foreign-made machinery. Moreover, plans are afoot to close down some of the loss-making enterprises. Nine new coal deposits are to be worked by the open-cast method, which will help overcome the coal shortage.

Chita Crash Hearing Begins, Grachev a Defendant

LD0411094994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0659 GMT 4 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Fomin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chita November 4 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev or his official representative will be a defendant at the hearings, which begin today in the court martial at the Chita garrison. The trial is called by the military the "general versus general" case. Air Force Major General Vladimir Zagitov, chief of staff of the Air Force of the Baykal Military District, will be a plaintiff.

The conflict between the Air Force officers and the defence minister broke out over Grachev's order, issued soon after the air crash of an AN-12 military-transport plane, which took place on August 5 in the Chita region. It crashed, when approaching an airfield near the village of Bada, 200 km west of Chita. All the people that were on board the plane—39 servicemen, two family members and six crew members—died. The defence minister ordered that a group of senior officers, including Air Force Major General Vladimir Zagitov and commander of the air force of the Baykal Military District Lieutenant General Anatoliy Vasiliev, should be removed from their posts and retired from military service ahead of their term.

Six officers and generals did not agree with the decision of the top military command, which they regarded as unjust, and appealed against the order to corresponding judicial authorities.

On the eve of the hearings General Zagitov told ITAR-TASS that the conflict between the air force officers and the defence minister had nothing to do with politics and was purely professional. "The conflict should be settled by judicial authorities, the way it is usually done in civilised countries," he stressed.

Editor Criticizes Military in Press, Is Attacked

MM0311141194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Yershov: "Attack on Rayon Newspaper Editor"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast—S. Smirnova, editor of Krasnobakovskiy Rayon's VPERED newspaper, has ended up in the hospital as a result of an attack by two unidentified persons.

According to the victim, she went to the hospital to visit a neighbor in the evening and on her return two tall men aged 25-30 came up to her and attacked her.

At the time of the attack she heard one of her attackers say: "You remember us...." Recently S. Smirnova has published several articles criticizing the leadership of local military highway construction workers, accusing them of squandering equipment and other serious offenses. They may have been settling the score with the editor for these unpleasant articles.

Tula Coal Mine Strike Continues, Expands

MM0311125194 Moscow TRUD in Russian 3 Nov 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report under the rubric "TRUD Journalistic Investigation" and the general heading "Where Is Miners' Money Going?": "Give Us Our Pay and We'll Come Up to the Surface! Moscow Coal Basin Miners Demand Unpaid Wages"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tula—Another Tula mine has joined the strike by miners of the Moscow Coal Field demanding payment of overdue wages. The "Lipkovskaya-9" pit has joined miners of the Moscow Coal Field's "Nikulinskaya" pit, who have been on strike since 27 October. Ninety miners have refused to come up from under ground. All work on the surface has also been stopped.

The total number of strikers at the two pits is almost 1,800. A meeting between directors and the trade union held yesterday in the "Tulaugol" Joint-Stock Company produced no result: The administration does not have the funds to pay miners their wages for the last three and a half months. Unpaid wages have reached the sum of 30 billion rubles [R]; meanwhile R50 billion are owed by recipients of Moscow Field coal.

The "Nikulinskaya" pit is awaiting a commission from "Rosugol." The territorial committee of the coal miners trade union does not rule out the possibility of the entire Moscow Coal Field joining the strike if the commission does not manage to reach agreement with miners and find mutually acceptable solutions.

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International Affairs

Kiev Reaffirms Readiness To Join NPT

LD0311230694 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Oleksandr Tkachenko, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council, met a delegation from the foreign affairs committee in the British House of Commons which is visiting the Ukraine. The guests were familiarized with the situation in the Ukraine and the measures taken by the Supreme Council, the president, and the government to achieve economic stabilization in our state. It was emphasized that the activity of Ukraine's parliament is now focused on the elaboration and adoption of enforceable enactments in various spheres of social life, drafting of a new constitution, and formation of the constitutional court.

The Ukrainian side reaffirmed its readiness to accede to the nuclear weapons nonproliferation treaty. At the same time, it was pointed out that nuclear states must give Ukraine security guarantees and relevant assistance. The British MP's expressed their understanding of Ukraine's stance on the issue and the hope that it would benefit from the accession to the above treaty.

During the meeting they also discussed the broad possibilities of bilateral Ukrainian-British cooperation, in particular, in the agrarian and scientific spheres.

UK Official on Security Guarantees

LD0311143794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1345 GMT 3 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev November 3 TASS—Britain will give security guarantees to Ukraine as soon as it joins the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the House of Commons, David Howell, said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS Today. A British parliamentary delegation, now on a visit in Kiev, is discusssing nonproliferation issues and post-cold war control of nuclear weapons with Ukrainian officials.

Howell said the delegation held detailed talks on Ukraine's security with Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Valeriy Shmarov and Parliament Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Tkachenko. He said Britain understood Ukraine's demands of security guarantees from the world community.

The British parliamentarian said the world's politicians were interested in Ukraine's rapid integration in the European and world community.

Howell said Britain was already now ready to assist Ukraine, in particular in utilisation of its nuclear fuel.

The parliamentary delegation meets Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko today.

Moroz, Belgian Discuss Treaty Ratification

LD0311163594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1340 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev— Parliament will discuss ratification of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty [NPT] on 10 November, Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz said at a meeting with Belgian Ambassador to Ukraine Ingeborg Christofersen. The parliament leader added that the discussion would be a difficult one. While joining the NPT, Ukraine has to consider first of all its own interests, he stressed. Ms. Christofersen said it was important to the world community to see Ukraine at next year's conference on the extension of the NPT as a full member.

They were meeting to discuss the official visit to Belgium by Ukraine's parliamentary delegation led by Oleksandr Moroz, due on 6- 8 November. Deputies are planning to meet top Belgian Government officials (a meeting with the prime-minister is yet to be confirmed) and representatives of the Federation of Belgian Enterprises, as well as leaders of the Chamber of Representatives and the Senate and several parliamentary commissions. In Brussels, they will also meet leaders of the European parliament and NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes.

The Ukrainian delegation will include chairmen of commissions for foreign and CIS affairs (Borys Oliynyk), Chernobyl catastrophe issues (Volodymyr Yatsenko) and science and education (Volodymyr Storizhko), all of whom represent the Communist group, and deputy chairman of the commission for basic industries and socioeconomic development of the regions Volodymyr Yemelyanov of the Reforms group.

According to Oleksandr Moroz, the Ukrainian delegation will be primarily interested in security guarantees, investment in the Ukrainian economy, and Belgium's contribution to the modernization of the energy sector and processing industry in Ukraine.

Kuchma, CSCE Official Meet, Discuss 'Views'

LD0311204594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1748 GMT 3 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko, Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev November 3 TASS—The CSCE High Commissioner Max van der Stoel told ITAR-TASS upon completion of his meeting with the Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma today that his views on the situation in the Crimea coincide with the views of the Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

The CSCE commissioner said that during the meeting they thoroughly discussed problems which demand immediate solution, primarily, the problem of bringing

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the Crimean Constitution in line with the Ukrainian Constitution by the Crimean Parliament. The CSCE commissioner positively assessed a balanced policy conducted by the Ukrainian president towards the Crimea.

The CSCE commissioner also met Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament Aleksandr Moroz and Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko.

Official Proposes CSCE Peacekeeping Role

LD0311143294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1150 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—As Viktor Kryzhanivskyy, the acting head of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's CSCE and European regional structures directorate, told UNIAN on 3 November, the ministries of defense and foreign affairs of Ukraine, acting on an instruction from Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, are working out the issue of Ukraine's participation in peacekeeping operations on the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh within the framework of the CSCE. The proposals will be presented for the Supreme Council's consideration. In particular, they plan to propose that Ukraine's parliament should place a company and a military aircraft at the disposal of the CSCE peacekeeping forces.

Viktor Kryzhanivskyy said that on 19 October Hennadiy Udovenko, Ukraine's foreign minister, had sent a letter addressed to Antonio Martino, the acting chairman of the CSCE council of ministers and foreign minister of Italy. The letter noted that Ukraine was interested in taking part in international peacekeeping operations within the framework of the CSCE, based on the foundations and principles of the CSCE and norms elaborated in Helsinki in 1992.

The issue of the possibility of beginning peacekeeping operations will be discussed by a committee of senior CSCE officials during the conference on the CSCE's activity, which will meet in Budapest on 18 November.

"The decision will be made by consensus. The decision will be considered not to have been adopted even if one of the 52 CSCE member countries votes against it. In addition, for the decision to be adopted, the consent of Armenia and Azerbaijan must also be obtained," Kryzhanivskyy said.

According to Kryzhanivskyy, one of the conditions for the start of peacekeeping operations and observer missions in the region is a stable ceasefire.

Masol Considers BSF as Payment on Gas Debt

LD0311152594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1341 GMT 3 Nov 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lvov November 3 TASS—The Ukrainian Government is ready now to consider a possibility of leasing to Russia its part of the Black Sea Fleet together with the whole of its infrastructure as a form of payment of part of its debt for Russian gas, Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol told BUSINESS- TASS. He stressed that the payment of debts to Russia and Turkmenistan for energy carriers is one of the key problems facing Ukraine.

Ukraine owes 1,700 million dollars to Russia for gas deliveries. According to the information of the Russian mass media, previously Ukraine expressed readiness to lease out Sevastopol to Russia for five years as the main base of the Black Sea Fleet with the subsequent prolongation of the contract.

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National Affairs

Official on Division Between Prime Minister, Cabinet

LD0311211894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1610 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kiev—Valeriy Pustovoytenko, minister to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine held a briefing at the Cabinet of Ministers on 3 November. He dwelled on the changes in the macroeconomic structure of the executive power and on the strategy of the government's economic transformations. [passage omitted]

Replying to journalists' questions on whether the resignation of Ukraine's Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol is envisaged in the near future, Valeriy Pustovoytenko said: "I think it is not envisaged. Although I believe that the president of Ukraine must be the one to lead the executive power. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question from UNIAN on the structural changes in the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Pustovoytenko said: "The structure of the Cabinet of Ministers has already been approved, it has been divided into the sections dealing with economic issues, legal issues, issues of political parties and organizations, the Supreme Council and local self-government bodies, foreign-economic relations and economic management. The other sections will deal with issues of the housing and municipal economy, science, culture, education, and so on. I believe that the cabinet staff should consist of the people who will work for the future. I will not offer jobs to people aged 50 plus."

Council 'Welcomes' Initial Economic Reforms

LD0311200594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 3 Nov 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The council of Ukraine's regions has met in session under President Kuchma's leadership in Kiev. On the whole it welcomed the government's resolution to liberalize prices, as well as the National Bank's financial and credit policies.

Presidential regional policies adviser Vladimir Grinev has said, though, that some of the regional officials who spoke at the rally called for extending reforms over a longer period of time.

Vice-Premier Igor Mityukov, who is in charge of financial and credit policies, has said that the first portion of the IMF's economic reform credit - 371 million dollars - had arrived already.

Mityukov said he hoped that the resources would compensate for the trade balance deficit in the fourth quarter, help finance essential imports and maintain confidence in Ukraine as a country that has begun market economy reforms.

Deputy Finance Minister Boris Sobolev has said that aid from international financial organizations gave Ukraine real chances to reform its economy. In particular, he noted the fact that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have agreed to grant all credits simultaneously, for the first time in their practice. Sobolev said that negotiations had already begun with the World Bank on a reserve credit to Ukraine. He likened the first tranche of the STF credit to Ukraine to "intensive care". At the same time he said that the money would not be used to pay off the debt to Russia. "We shall be able to use the money to pay for current supplies", Sobolev said.

"Regional leaders are aware that measures taken by the government are necessary", the first deputy speaker of the Ukrainian parliament Oleg Demin has said. However, he added that the national government and regional authorities must coordinate their action. Demin said that regions were in some cases poorly informed about the motivation of executive authorities and planned steps.

Grinev said that all speakers called for an immediate political reform, including the re-arrangement of the vertical chain of command. Grinev said that the Ukrainian parliament should consider a draft law on power as soon as possible. President Leonid Kuchma is expected to submit the bill to parliament for discussion shortly. IF Note: The council of regions is led by President Kuchma. It includes the leaders of all executive councils of Ukraine, as well as chairmen of the Kiev and Sevastopol city councils and a representative of the Crimean government.

Communist Group Proposes Economic Program

LD0311190694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1610 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—On 3 November, a parliament group, "Communists of Ukraine for Social Justice and Democracy," issued a statement declaring their opposition to the forces pursuing policies "toward completing a capitalist coup in Ukraine." The statement says: "The new policy is nothing other than an even more energetic continuation of the previous regime's bankrupt course."

Communists propose a program of their own for Ukraine to pull out of the economic crisis, which, in particular, includes the following points:

—stopping the process of denationalization in the economy's state sector;

—exercising state control over foreign trade, foreign currency exchange rates, and foreign currency revenue and expenditure;

—nationalizing commercial banks;

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—banning the circulation of foreign currency in Ukraine;

—settling the payments crisis and revitalizing production on the basis of regulating the economy via setting a parity of prices and reintegrating production;

—in view of the tense situation over providing the population with food and consumer goods, introducing their distribution subject to limits; and

—resuming the activity in industry of work force councils and people's and workers' control over production.

Crimean Deputies Consider Draft Resolutions

LD0311180194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1210 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—The Supreme Council of Crimea deputies at a plenary sitting on 3 November commenced a debate on the issue of the political situation in Crimea. This was after the Supreme Council of Ukraine passed a resolution "On the political and legal position of the Crimean Autonomous Republic" on 22 October. Nine draft resolutions are under consideration.

The Crimean Supreme Council presidium version proposes in part to return to the September 1992 Constitution. Parliament Chairman Serhiy Tsekov believes that the main sticking point in relations between Crimea and Ukraine is Ukraine's unitary structure which, in his view, gives rise to an abnormal situation where Crimea's parliament is faced with the need to change the peninsula's Constitution for the fourth time in two and a half years. Serhiy Tsekov believes that "the key to settling problems between Ukraine and Russia is in Simferopol," hoping that Kiev after all will renounce a policy of ultimatums and threats.

The opinion of Deputy Anushevan Danelyan is that any resolution should be coordinated with a Ukrainian delegation. He proposed to continue the process of negotiations.

The Russia group led by Serhiy Nikulin has stated that it will not abandon its pre-election program and will not alter the Republic of Crimea's Constitution.

The Russia-Unity group has put forward a motion to hold a Crimea- wide referendum to answer the question of whether the Crimean Constitution should be brought into line with that of Ukraine.

Several deputies, including Oleksiy Melnykov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea, insist that a moratorium on an all- Crimean referendum on the peninsula's status should be lifted and such a referendum held.

Deputies Seek Compromise

LD0311223994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1845 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—Crimea's members of parliament spent the day discussing the speech by Parliament Speaker Serhiy Tsekov and the report on the political situation in the republic following the Ukrainian Supreme Council's resolution "On the political and legal situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea" of 22 September 1994.

Many deputies spoke in favor of lifting the moratorium on an all- Crimean referendum on the republic's independence. They suggested including constitutional articles that are to be brought into line with Ukraine's legislation in the poll.

Kurultay leader Refat Chubarov announced the group's view. The Crimean Tatars believe it is necessary to adopt a document agreed with the Ukrainian delegation. A statement by the Kurultay group says it would "support only those decisions that are aimed at aligning Crimea's Constitution with that of Ukraine."

The debate will be resumed on 4 November. A conciliatory commission has been set up to make the discussion more productive. It includes authors of the proposed drafts, group representatives, and independent deputies. The group is expected to submit an agreed version of the decision before the session begins at 1000. UNIAN already reported that deputies were split as to whether to bring Crimea's Constitution in line with that of Ukraine.

Local observers note that the majority of Crimean deputies are inclined to reject the proposed amendments. Both the Kurultay group and Crimea's Communist leader Leonid Hrach argued for the need to remove discrepancies between Ukrainian and Crimean legislation. Groups Rossiya, Rossiya-Yedinstvo, and Respublika insisted on keeping the Constitution unchanged.

Crimeans Discuss Constitution Issue

LD0311225594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1926 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Crimean parliament failed to make any decision on bringing the Constitution of Crimea in line with that of Ukraine this evening.

Crimean parliamentarians decided to continue discussing the issue on Friday.

Observers said they believed that on Friday the Crimean parliament was most likely to adopt an appeal to the Ukrainian parliament and unlikely to amend the Crimean Constitution and legislation.

CSCE Forms Crimean Issues 'Expert Group'

LD0311220394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1826 GMT 3 Nov 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Vladimir Medyaniy for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev November 3 TASS—The conference on Security and Cooperation (CSCE) in Europe will establish an expert group to help settle

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disputable issues between Kiev and Simferopol, CSCE High Commissioner on Ethnic Minorities Max van der Stoel said during the meeting with Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament Oleksandr Moroz.

Max van der Stoel arrived in Kiev on Thursday to discuss rights of ethnic minorities in Ukraine and the development of Ukrainian- Crimean dialogue.

Shmarov on Low Morale, Lack of Housing in Army

LD0311163894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1210 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—The number of cases of servicemen acting in breach of regulations in the Ukrainian army this year has gone up by 47 percent on last year's figures, Ukraine's Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov told a conference on servicemen's social protection on 3 November. He said that criminal proceedings in 1994 were instituted in 215 cases concerning such treatment, against last year's 147. He added that the army is infested with bribery, corruption, and thefts.

In Valeriy Shmarov's view, army morale has declined considerably with one of the reasons for this being that 72,000 servicemen have no housing of their own.

Answering a question from a UNIAN correspondent, Valeriy Shmarov said he has no formal program to pull the army out of this crisis but that he has a consistent plan of how to achieve this. Next year, in particular, the Defense Ministry will seek to provide 20,000 servicemen with housing.

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Belarus

President Begins 2 Weeks of Treatment in Sochi

LD0311213594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 3 Nov 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 214 (704); compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Thursday President Alyaksandr Lukashenka came to Sochi after a medical examination in Moscow.

Well informed sources in Minsk reported to Interfax that Russian physicians believe that it is possible to treat for a sharp form of radiculitis, from which Lukashenka suffers, without any operation. According to the source, Russian President Boris Yeltsin proposed to Lukashenka to go to his Sochi residence where the Belarusian president will take hydrogen sulphide baths for two weeks.

IMF Round Moves Toward Approval of Credits

WS0411102994 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0800 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The second round of an International Monetary Fund mission's work in Minsk resulted in approving the text of the Memorandum of the Economic Policy of the Belarusian Government in 1994-95. This document is to lay grounds for approving the second disbursement of credits for Belarus under the IMF's new system transformation facility (STF) and, perhaps, the first disbursement of a stand-by credit. According to the Memorandum, among the main purposes of the government there is the overcoming of economic crisis, sharp deceleration of inflation, stabilization of the situation in foreign payments, creation of conditions for economic upsurge and rise in living standards. In the nearest future the government intends to liberalize prices, to abandon the policy of wide use of state subsidies, to toughen monetary and credit policy, to normalize foreign economic policy, to speed up privatization; to protect the most vulnerable strata of the population. Besides, the Memorandum points out that the government and the National Bank have for an object to sharply reduce the monthly rate of inflation—to less than 10 percent by the end of 1994, to 5 percent by the middle of 1995 and 1 percent by the end of 1995.

Bank Chairman on 'Harsh' Financial Policy

WS0311144494 Minsk CHYRVONAYA ZMENA in Belarusian 29 Oct 94 p 1

[BELINFORM report: "Chief Banker Initiates 'Harsh Policy'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **"Those who do not see changes in Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, who has become a prominent political figure in just a short period of time, are blind," National Bank Chairman Stanislaw Bahdankevich stated at a news conference held on 26 October. In his opinion, the president's support for a "revolutionary" program of anti-crisis measures was a bold and decisive step, which the former leadership did not dare to take.**

Continuing, Stanislaw Antonavich emphasized that almost 99 percent of his proposals were reflected in the program, and their implementation has already begun. At a meeting of the National Bank Management Board, a whole range of fundamental decisions in the framework of the program for urgent measures for overcoming the economic crisis were made. This is primarily the reduction of the money supply by limiting money emissions, and changing the bank rate. Explaining the essence of these measures, the chief banker reported that the National Bank decided to limit credits to the government and commercial banks to 235 billion rubles [R] in the fourth quarter of this year. Half of this sum will be used to finance the budget deficit, and credits to commercial banks will not exceed R174 billion. The banker emphasized that these harsh parameters were coordinated with the IMF.

In the first six months of 1995, the National Bank will only assist the government, and it will not grant credits to commercial banks. Moreover, as early as 10 October, a new interest rate for credits was introduced—25 percent monthly—meaning that the bank rate will equal the monthly inflation rate. The interest rate for citizens' deposits will also be set in this way, which, in the opinion of the chief banker, should prevent depreciation of deposited money.

Stanislaw Bahdankevich emphasized, however, that it is essential that his steps are supported by the government, which, in his opinion, should free prices and trade, as well as conduct privatization in a timely manner. At the same time, the chief banker added that, to his delight, "he sees that Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir shares his opinions, which could not be said about the former leader."

Stanislaw Bahdankevich also addressed Belarus' relations with Russia. "I am for special relations with Russia, built on a basis of parity that should be stimulated by Russia. Belarus will remain an equal and important country in these relations, and it should act in such a way so that it does not suffer losses," he said.

Responding to journalists' questions, the chief banker once again emphasized that he intends to fight against violators of the law in the Belarusian financial market and wants to restore order in this area, to carry out his responsibilities stemming from the presidential anti-crisis program.

Banker Views Treaty With Russia as 'Imprecise'

WS0311145294 Minsk SVABODA in Belarusian 1-7 Nov 94 p 1

[Report attributed to SIM: "Draft Treaty on Monetary Union With Russia Is Imprecise"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] **National Bank Deputy Chairman Valyantsin Zayash has reported that a treaty on monetary union with Russia is ready for initialing.**

He also noted that this treaty is more precise than the multilateral treaty on monetary union among CIS countries. At the same time, however, Mr. Zayash admitted that the Belarusian-Russian treaty is also imprecise. The draft treaty does not even provide for a maximum fluctuation of currency exchange rates, one against another, or a mechanism for regulating exchange rates. "According to this treaty, a monetary union remains only a plan," Valyantsin Zayash said.

Collegium Reviews Troops, Names Appointments

WS0311125094 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 29 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by Captain Vladimir Nestorovich: "The Border Troops Main Directorate Has New Collegium"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with the Belarusian president's instructions, new members of the Border Troops Main Directorate Collegium have been appointed. In addition to Generals Aleksandr Popov, Yevgeniy Kovalev, Nikolay Astapov, and Aleksandr Voinskiy, Border Troops deputy commanders, as well as Dmitriy Levitskiy, the latter's deputy for personnel issues, the collegium now also includes Viktor Sheyman, state secretary of the State Security Council, and Gennadiy Veselov, presidential representative to the Belarusian Border Troops. The collegium chairman has also been replaced. The new chairman is Major General Vasiliy Morkovkin—the new commander of the Belarusian Border Troops. He chaired the first meeting of the "reshuffled" Collegium of the Republic of Belarus Border Troops Main Directorate.

With the participation of the Main Directorate officers and border troops unit commanders, the collegium summed up the results of the troops' operational work in the spring-summer period of this year and set primary objectives for the fall-winter period of 1994- 95.

So, let us look at certain results. During the spring and summer of this year, 1,387 people were detained while attempting to trespass through the state border, including over 900 citizens of countries from the Afro-Asian region. Compared with the corresponding period last year, the number increased twofold.

One of the conclusions drawn at the meeting was that a well- concealed ramified network of criminal groupings, specializing in illegal actions connected with the state border, has been formed and is actively operating on the Belarusian territory. The Border Troops will only be able to efficiently combat organized crime on our borders if they themselves are organized, professionally trained, and protected by the law.

During the aforementioned period, 150 pieces of various types of weapons, 4.6 kg of narcotic substances, and contraband worth 710 million rubles were seized on the Belarusian border.

The collegium positively assessed the command and staff training held in May, in the course of which the use of airborne forces was tested on the Baltic section of our border. It was pointed out that operational deployment of border troops to unexpected locations will continue in the future.

The situation at border checkpoints remained tense. It is enough to say that 8.1 million people crossed the Belarusian border (specifically, the Polish and Baltic sections of it) during the spring and summer of this year.

The meeting also addressed such issues as shortcomings, primarily, in the organizational work of the Border Troops command forces, which affected the results of the protection of borders; cases of unpunished trespassing upon the Belarusian borders and reasons behind them; inefficient involvement of local citizens inhabiting border rayons in the protection of borders; inefficiency of the work on improving military discipline; and a number of other problems. In general, discussions were to the point, demanding, and, for many people, unpleasant.

Also participating in the meeting were Major General Valeriy Kez, KGB deputy chairman, Colonel Nikolay Krechko, deputy minister for internal affairs, and Lieutenant Colonel Sergey Stesik, chief of Belarusian Interior Ministry Passport and Visa Service.

Military Pilots Strike Demanding Overdue Wages

WS0311144894 Minsk SVABODA in Belarusian 1-7 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Ivan Sidar: "Strike at Airbase"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **On 24 October, pilots from the "Pruzhany-Zakhodniya" military airbase went on strike.**

Payment of wages had constantly been delayed at the airbase, which had forced the aviators to announce the strike. On the following day, Major General Vasilenka, deputy commander of the Air Forces, flew from Minsk and promised: "The money will be calculated today, and you will receive it tomorrow."

As a SVABODA correspondent has learned, on 26 October at 1600, wages were actually paid at the airbase. By the way, the pilots are not paid much—from 130,000 to 150,000 rubles per month. Taking into account that their wives do not earn anything (there are simply no jobs), this is not an impressive sum for a family. Yet, it proves that it is not easy to receive even this money.

Moldova

Snegur Demands Observation of 14th Army Pullout

LD0311230794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1926 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, at a meeting with Hungarian State Minister of

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Foreign Affairs Istvan Szt-Ivanyi, expressed a demand that the future withdrawal of the Russian 14th Army from Moldova be monitored by international organizations, the presidential press service reported.

Snegur told Szt-Ivanyi in Kishinev [Chisinau] on Thursday that political and economic reforms in Moldova's region of Transdniester had been halted by the local separatist leaders, who, "pursuing their own ambitions, are depriving the native population of its elementary rights and are violating human rights, including that to education."

The Hungarian minister responded that his government disagreed with those who questioned Moldova's right to independence and wanted its unification with another country. He said Hungary backed Moldova in international organizations and supported its plea to join the Council of Europe.

Szt-Ivanyi has taken part in a ceremony to open a Hungarian embassy in Kishinev.

Snegur Wants To 'Subordinate' Dniester Forces

LD0311210994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1701 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Army of the Republic of Moldova and armed units of Transdniestria should be subordinate to a single command of the Moldovan armed forces, says Moldovan President Mircea Snegur.

In the course of his conversation with a group of journalists in Kishinev [Chisinau] Snegur underlined: "Everything should be single in Moldova, the army, the State Security Ministry, and the Interior Ministry. If we permit Transdniestria to have its own army, it would actually mean recognition of this self-proclaimed 'state.'"

Answering questions concerning the consequences of the 14th Russian army withdrawal from Moldova, Snegur said: "A motor rifle brigade of Moldova's national army in which former officers of the army under withdrawal could serve, if they wish, will occupy its place."

Snegur characterized General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th army, as "a controversial person." In Snegur's opinion, Lebed managed to bring order in the army. "When the issue of his possible withdrawal was raised, I expressed my opinion to Boris Yeltsin. I know, that until he (Lebed) is here the large amount of armaments will not appear in alien hands," Snegur said.

Mentioning Lebed's criticism with respect to the present leadership of the self-proclaimed Transdniestrian-Moldovan republic, Snegur pointed out that the data on corruption in the higher echelons of power in Tiraspol mentioned by Lebed "are impressive." In particular, Snegur said, "the 14th army has prevented the export of arms to Crimea and this makes us think about what is Transdniestria today—a territory where people can grow bread, vegetables, fruits and produce electric engines and refrigerators or a military base?"

Chornyy on Iranian Oil Import Agreement

LD0311213694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1926 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In 1995 Moldova will import 2.5 million tonnes of crude oil from Iran, the general director of the government-owned fuel production association Nikolay Chornyy told Interfax. He said this would satisfy 90 percent of the country's needs for such fuel.

The agreement on Iranian oil imports was signed during the visit to Iran on Tuesday and Wednesday by a Moldovan delegation led by Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli.

According to Chornyy, under the agreement 12.5 million tonnes of oil will be imported during a period of five years at a price 10% lower than the world price.

Payments will be in hard currency as well as on the basis of clearing transactions in the process of which Moldova will be able to export to Iran pumps, carpets, sugar, meat, cans, sunflower oil and other goods.

The oil will be delivered by Moldovan tankers to Constanta, Romania, and refined in that country.

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Kazakhstan

U.S. Envoy Meets Officials, Agreement Signed

LD0311165194 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1420 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kazakh-American committee begins to function. As has already been reported, a first meeting was held of the Kazakh-American committee on cooperation, which was set up on the initiative of Presidents Nazarbayev and Clinton. To this effect, Tulegen Zhukeyev, secretary of the Kazakh Security Council who chaired the meeting, and a U.S. envoy, James Collins, held a news conference on 2 November.

They note the great importance of the intergovernmental agreement which was signed on 1 November in Almaty on non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are implementing the U.S. assistance project to Kazakhstan. The joint committee at its meeting has already examined a wide range of issues relating to all aspects of bilateral ties and, first of all, economic relations. The United States has confirmed its intention to broaden assistance to Kazakhstan in the sphere of privatization, in bringing the structural reform of the Kazakh national economy to its logical completion, and in eliminating production decline, as well as assisting in scientific and technical spheres.

According to Zhukeyev and Collins, the meeting focused its attention on oil prospecting and the transportation of it, and the possibilities of further increasing American and other foreign investment in the Kazakh economy.

Overseas specialists highly assessed the republic's intellectual potential. They came to a conclusion that capital investments in the economic and other branches of our young state corresponds to both sides' interests. This also pertains to the measures taken by Kazakhstan in the field of the defense industry conversion, in promoting international security, and settlement of the conflicts in the CIS by political means.

Answering journalists' questions, Tulegen Zhukeyev and James Collins also spoke about joint Kazakh-American efforts to ban nuclear tests on the planet, to protect the environment, as well as efforts in other spheres of cooperation.

On the same day, Prime Minister Akezhan Kazhegeldin met James Collins. Main guidelines of further deepening and broadening of mutually benefitial cooperation between Kazakhstan and the United States were discussed, as well as other issues of mutual interest.

British, Italian Gas Project Falters

LD0311191594 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The richest Karachaganak gas condensate deposit is awaiting its final hour. When this hour will strike, our correspondent has attempted to find out.

[Unidentified correspondent] Two years ago, the deposit was adopted by British Gas together with the Agyp Italian concern, but unfortunately, having invested all their strength and means in their brainchild, they found themselves facing great problems on Russian territory—laying pipelines via the neighboring state led to more substantial investment. In other words, Karachaganak cost a fortune to the foreigners. Meanwhile, the crisis of payments worsened the situation, and even the recently thriving Karachaganakgasstroy did not understand how it found itself in the list of cost-inefficient enterprises that are either to be liquidated or normalized.

Nevertheless, the foreign partners were given some time to change the situation for the better. In late November, the final decision will be taken on further cooperation with the foreign companies who won the tender two years ago for joint recovery of the Karachaganak deposit. This is what Yeset Rabatovich Azerbayev, the president of the state holding company Kazakhgas thinks about it:

[Begin Azerbayev recording] Taking into consideration that the problem can drag on and on, a decision has been made to sign an intermediary agreement, say for two, or maybe four years in order to examine this problem with Gasprom and other Russian organizations, and to allow for our alliance to work on the deposit. The intermediary draft agreement has been considered since June. Quite a lot of time has passed since then. This is why we put a final condition—the agreement should be signed by 30 November. In case it is not signed by this date, 30 November, then we will consider ourselves free from any obligations under the agreement with the British Gas and Agyp alliance, which we signed in June 1992. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Gas workers are not just sitting idle waiting. They are laying pipelines to supply gas to remote rural villages. [passage omitted]

Ethnic Tensions at Danger Level; Cossacks Ready To March

MK0311133094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Nov 94 p 3

[Sergey Kozlov report: "Russian Cossacks May Set Out on a March. The Upper Irtysh Ataman Council Chairman Has Been Kidnapped"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The events of recent days in East Kazakhstan Oblast have taken on such an explosive character that it is quite likely that special security measures could be introduced in the region within the next few days, including a state of emergency.

Conflicting rumors about the disappearance of a local Cossack ataman apparently corresponded to the most serious apprehensions. Fedor Cherepanov, 32, chairman of the Upper-Irtysh Area Ataman Council, was taken hostage by an unidentified group of persons. So far no local organization has claimed responsibility for the incident. The morning after the incident the kidnappers

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phoned the National Security Committee (NSC) regional division and stated their demands, addressing them for some reason to the republic Supreme Soviet. They demanded $900,000 and also that all Cossack representatives be removed from republican power structures. As a token that the demands are accepted, four NSC officers, named by the kidnappers, were to appear at a certain time in various places in the streets of Ust-Kamenogorsk. After that the kidnappers promised to get in touch with the NSC and continue negotiations.

NSC officers gave the required sign and, according to NSC regional chief Gennadiy Tokarev, are ready to continue the dialogue and honor the terms made. But no more attempts to contact were made. Meanwhile, tensions in the region and in the city have reached dangerous levels. The Cossacks held a four-hour march through the city of Ust-Kamenogorsk. Representatives of neighboring cities—Shemanaikha, Zyryanovsk, Leninogorsk, and some others—also took part. Gathering in front of the oblast administration building, the marchers put forward the following demands: If the situation does not change before the evening of 6 November, the Cossacks "reserve the right to analogous actions."

During a meeting between the oblast leadership and delegates elected by the Cossacks and local activists, the Prosecutor's Office was accused of ignoring instances of dividing the oblast population on ethnic principles, and also the trend toward creating privileges for one ethnic group at the expense of others.

The Russian South-Siberian Cossacks have expressed their support for the East Siberian Cossacks. Some of their Cossack units in regions bordering on Eastern Kazakhstan have been placed on campaign alert. It is not ruled out that Russian Cossacks will arrive to support their brothers in Ust-Kamenogorsk. Local activists and deputies oppose this march. Mikhail Golobkov, deputy of the republic Supreme Soviet from Eastern Kazakhstan Oblast, told NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent that "this will only further fuel tensions and reprisals against the innocent."

A mass rally has been set for 6 November in Ust-Kamenogorsk. In addition to Cossacks, communists, socialists, local Slavic organizations, and the local labor movement have expressed a wish to take part.

Oblast Prosecutor Mikhail Kertsman appealed to the kidnappers on local radio and TV. He called on them to continue negotiations and provide guarantees that Fedor Cherepanov is alive. Meanwhile, contact with the group that kidnapped the ataman has been established through Oleg Rubets, a well-known Kazakhstan religious activist and participant in the Afghan war who has accepted Islam. The kidnappers have changed their demands. The ransom has been established in the national currency but its value is still the same: $900,000, i.e., 31 million tenge, with yet another rather strange condition made: Half the sum must be paid in 100-tenge bills and half in 50-tenge bills. This, according to prosecutor Kertsman, means that the aggregate banknotes will weigh more than a tonne. Transfer of the money is to take place in the next few days in the village of Gornouldinka, 35 km from Ust-Kamenogorsk. According to Mikhail Golobkov, "our authorities have tried to present all interethnic conflicts as domestic hooliganism until two years ago, when a Chechen settlement was subjected to a pogrom." There is also a version whereby the incident was a direct result of events at the end of September when representatives of 16 cities of the republic's north gathered in Pavlodar and adopted a statement. One of its provisions was the need for a constitutional reform aimed at specifying what kind of state Kazakhstan is: of all citizens living in it or just one particular section of the population....

After this, following orders from the republic top leadership, the East Kazakhstan Oblast Prosecutor's Office issued a warning to three deputies of the city maslikhat (deputies' assembly), including Fedor Cherepanov, while this action was widely publicized in the press. This, Mikhail Golobkov believes, could well have brought about what has happened.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev: Trilateral Central Asian Union Active

LD0411113194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0807 GMT 4 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek November 4 TASS—The union of three Central Asian republic "has already been put into operation", Kyrgyz President told a televised news conference on Thursday [3 November].

"At long last, we came to have a mecanism for real economic unity. We have a united bank, customs association and, most importantly, we agreed on (joint) use of arterial roads," Akayev said.

"We should live and surmount the crisis together. There is no alternative to it. Nobody is waiting for us on the world market, all of its sectors are occupied," he added.

Akayev regretted the fact that other CIS member states "have not yet come to realize this". "One year ago we signed documents on founding a united bank, but it did not begin working until now," he complained and added that the idea of a united economic space was not realized so far, either.

The Kyrgyz president referred to the Interstate Economic Committee, established by the Commonwealth, as "extremely necesary and vitally important agency of economic integration" and emphasized that its activities would largely depend on the personality of its leader.

"If (the leader) is an active and respectable person, we shall get the business moving. In the opposite case, everything will remain at dead centre," he emphasized.

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State Officials Unable To Run for Parliament

LD0411112594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0912 GMT 4 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek November 4 TASS—The administation of Kyrghizian [Kyrgyz] President Askar Akayev is determined to fully apply the constitutional rule, prohibiting top-ranking state officials to run for parliamentary elections. State Secretary Janysh Rustenbekova, head of the administration, said that the government had drawn up a document, prohibiting all the ministers, their deputies, heads of administrations, chiefs of major law enforcement bodies, and other influential persons to take part in the February 5, 1995, elections to the country's new legislative assembly.

"Thereby," Rustenbekova stated, "we are preventing them from exploiting their official status to win seats in the new parliament. This is being done in keeping with the Kyrghizian Constitution, which came into force on May 5, 1993. Every citizen of the country must have equal chances and only his knowledge, skills, and authority will count during the elections. Those who regard the parliamentary mandate as something that is higher than a state post must resign from it."

This means that Kyrghizian President Askar Akayev, whose positions were strengthened by the results of the October 22 referendum and the reorganisation of local governing structures, now wants to set up a parliament, which would be rid of direct influence from state officials.

Journalist, Minister Reportedly Beaten by Militia

LD0311175394 Bishkek VECHERNIY BISHKEK in Russian 1 Nov 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] We apologize to our readers.

Here there should have been an article devoted to the 70th anniversary of the Kyrgyz militia. A festive article. It was ready for publication...

It has not turned out to be a holiday.

On the eve of the holiday, SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA journalist Danil Kyshtobayev was beaten up by the militia...

Several days before this event, speaking about an incident when the journalists G. Luneva and L. Akilova were beaten up, the Minister of Internal Affairs Abdybek Sutalinov said that this was nothing terrible "it was not journalists but [female] citizens who were beaten up...."

Islet of democracy [as President Askar Akayev refers to Kyrgyzstan]....

The absence of an article on this page signifies our solidarity with our colleagues.

P.S. Deputy Finance Minister R. Hasanov, was beaten up by militiamen on Saturday [29 October] at Orto-Say market.

Militia Personnel Arrested After Attack

LD0311225794 Bishkek VECHERNIY BISHKEK in Russian 2 Nov 94 p 2

[Article by H. Mustafayev: "Editor's Column"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, our newspaper drew the attention of our readers to the mayhem created by some militiamen (we mean the illegal detention of Danil Kyshtobayev, the SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA journalist). At that time we did not know the results of the collegium of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, but now they have been published. In today's paper we publish part of the article devoted to the 70th anniversary of our glorious militia.

The events that happened can be viewed in various ways but I, as a citizen of my country, am satisfied with the decision of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' collegium. I have known Abdybek Sutalinov (internal affairs minister] a very long time, I know him as a decisive, courageous, and honest general and I will not hide from you that I quite like him. Anyway he has opened his "red file" and said the decisive word. A strict reprimand has been issued to Colonel Tyablin, the deputy head of Bishkek internal affairs directorate, while Major Saparaliyev, the head of the directorate for maintaining public order, was declared not fully competent in his duties. A similar punishment was meted out to Senior Lieutenant Balbayev, the head of the inquiry department of Pervomayskiy district internal affairs directorate. Some personnel of the district internal affairs directorate have been removed from their posts, namely Lieutenant Colonel Duysheyev and Senior Lieutenant Kozukeyev, while the actual perpetrators, Senior Sergeant Cholponkulov and Sgt. Dzhumaliyev who illegally arrested the journalist, have been arrested and placed in a remand center and criminal proceedings have begun against them.

Other militia personnel guilty of this incident of the illegal detention of a citizen have been punished in various ways. It would seem that it is possible to place a full stop and breathe a sigh of relief now that the minister has rewarded "the heroes" of the incident according to their "just deserts." But as for me, Abdybek Asankulovich Sutalinov, I cannot do this. There are too many violations of the law in our country, and it is particularly painful that frequently these crimes are committed by people wearing militia uniform. If you were to open your "red file" more often.... Maybe then we would feel that we live in an "island of democracy"....

Tajikistan

Agreement With Afghanistan on Polling Stations

LD0311141694 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The information department of the republic's Foreign Ministry received a report today

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from (Tahir Ahmedov) and (Saidmuhammad Zahirov), Foreign Ministry officials and members of the Tajikistan Supreme Council's working group on repatriating Tajik refugees from Afghanistan. The report says that they [working group] met with (Khoji Abdolrauf), commander of the 989th [Afghan] Border Regiment, in the area of Sher Khan Bandar. An agreement on organizing a polling station for the Tajik referendum and presidential elections was achieved with the Afghan side. Our compatriots who are still on Afghan territory will give their opinion on adopting the constitution and on the presidential elections there. It is proposed that a similar polling station will be in operation on election day in the city of Mazar-e Sharif in Balkh Province, the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Abdullojonov: Republic Needs Russia to Survive

LD0411092494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0834 GMT 4 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Andrey Palaria]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khudzhent (Lininabad region, Tajikistan) November 4 TASS—"Tajikistan will not survive without Russia", Abdumalik Abdullojonov, 44, presidential candidate in Tajikistan who is now Tajik ambassador to Russia, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS here on Friday [4 November].

In the opinion of Abdullojonov, this state of affairs is preconditioned not only by the economic crisis in this Central Asian republic but also by the geopolitical position of Russia in this region, without which, as he said, "Tajikistan's prosperity will be put into doubt".

Abdullojonov who, according to his claims, is backed by over 50 per cent of Tajik voters on the eve of the elections, favoured integration within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

He regards integration as one of the main tasks to build a stronger commonwealth. At the same time, the presidential candidate sees his main task, if he carries the elections, in stabilising the political situation in the republic as well as in raising living standards of Tajik people.

As for the presidential elections to be held on Sunday, November 6, Abdullojonov insisted that they should be held justly, "without falsification and pressure on voters".

Security Officer Launches Appeal for Rakhmonov

LD0311172894 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An appeal by Saidsho Shamolov, the commander of the special brigade of border troops of the Ministry of Security of the Republic of Tajikistan to the former members of the Popular Front:

Dear brothers, at this crucial historic moment when our people are preparing for the important political campaign, I involuntarily remember the events of the last two years. At that time the power-seeking forces, using various lawless methods, made the legitimate government their target. The president [Nabiyev] elected by the people had no opportunity to work. The bodies of law and order announced that they were undecided and withdrew from the defense of the president and the legitimate state. People no longer had any defenders. It was you who did not spare your souls that stood against the enemies of the nation. [passage omitted]

We are united, and our internal and external rivals and adversaries can see this unity, and they dislike it. They know that not a single force can beat us if we are united. Therefore, they have chosen new ways and methods of dividing us and want to use the electoral campaign in a clever way. We are sure that our people will not fall once again into the nets of intrigue, but will strengthen their unity and not let the opposition use this crucial and important campaign for sowing the seeds of enmity.

I should like to say a few words about the candidate for presidency, Emomali Sharipovich Rakhmonov. [passage omitted]

When Rakhmonov was elected to the post of chairman of the Supreme Council no one wanted this post because of the civil war in Tajikistan. [passage omitted] Now, when life in the country has been returned to normal and people are living in tranquillity, the number of people aspiring to office is increasing. These contenders forget past difficulties and pretend as if nothing had happened in the republic. As if they were not the cause of this political and economic crisis. They are blaming all the shortcomings on one person and do not want to see or hear anything else. [passage omitted]

They are aware of everything, but keenness for office has made them blind. Even those who plundered the country's property and made its economy unstable say all over the world that our people are poor and helpless. There are some members of the Popular Front who are wearing military clothes and say that they are former Popular Front members and try to kill two birds with one stone—plunder the people and discredit the Popular Front. One has to say openly that they have achieved their mercenary aims to some extent. [passage omitted]

We have a single aim. It is peace and calm for the people. Therefore, on 6 November, let us vote unanimously for Emomali Rakhmonov, one of the fighters for peace and prosperity in our country, and continue to unite around him in implementing his great plans for the unity of our people. If we do not contribute to the implementation of the plan by the man who is a son of the people, the spirits of those who have sacrificed their lives on the path of establishing truth and justice will never forgive us.

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Uzbekistan

Mitsubishi Delegation Visits; Swiss Firm Signs Deal

LD0311130294 Tashkent OZBEKISTON ISHBILARMON HAMQORI in Russian 1 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A presentation has been held for the mission of a major Japanese firm, Mitsubishi Corporation, in Tashkent. This event was the final event in the extensive program of a visit to Uzbekistan by a delegation led by Mitsubishi Vice President M. Kuroda. Talks were held with a number of ministries and departments as well as in the Cabinet of Ministers of the republic. The guests were received by Uzbek President I. Karimov. [passage omitted]

Representatives of the Swiss firm Asea Brown Bovery (ABB) Company and the Ministry of Communication of Uzbekistan have signed a protocol of intent to cooperate on implementing a project to employ local systems of the Immarasat satellite communications, and refurbish radio relay equipment and international telecommunications lines. Talks have been held on carrying out other projects of importance to the national economy: With the national Uzbekneftegaz Corporation, the Ministry of Power and Electrification, and the Central Asian Railway Department. [passage omitted]

Pardoned Oppositionists Ineligible for Election

MM0311151294 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Shakhabutdin Zaynutdinov: "Karimov Pardons Oppositionists, But They Will Not Become Deputies And They Will Have Difficulty Working"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tashkent—Five oppositionists have been pardoned in Uzbekistan including members of the "Birlik" People's Movement, who were officially sentenced to various terms of imprisonment for criminal offenses.

The presidential edict published 2 November notes in particular that petitions from "public organizations" (it is not known which precisely) and the convicts themselves, their admission of guilt, repentance of their crimes, and desire to serve society by honest labor in the future were taken into consideration. Their families' grave material position was also taken into account. The five have been released from custody. Among them is "Birlik" activist Pulatzhan Akhunov, a former deputy in the former Soviet parliament.

Local observers pont out that this is of course a humane act, but a compulsory one—for political considerations—in order to looku good in the eyes of the world public. The edict appeared ahead of the elections to the Supreme Council (the new parliament) and Uzbekistan's local councils, scheduled for late December this year, but representatives of "Birlik" and "Erk" should not expect an opportunity to run for deputy since their political organizations have not officially been reregistered and the date for that is past. The list of Supreme Council candidate deputies includes only representatives of two parties—the People's Democratic Party (the rightful heir of the former Communist Party), which is chaired by President I. Karimov, and "Vatan Tarakkiyeti" ("Progress for the Motherland"), which mainly comprises the creative intelligentsia who back the president's course.

It is unlikely that the pardoned men will find jobs at home. With that kind of reputation they can evidently only find work in the private sector, and only then so long as the employers do not want to spoil their relations with the authorities. [sentence as published]

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Armenia

UN Secretary General Arrives in Yerevan

NC0311183794 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0833 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("Hayastani Hanrapetutyun" daily), 11/03/94—UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali arrived to Armenia on November 2. RA Vice-President Gagik Arutyunyan, Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan, Secretary of the Supreme Council Varazdat Avoyan, Armenian Representative to the United Nations Aleksandr Arzumanyan, representatives of the UN office in Armenia met him at the "Zvartnots" airport of Yerevan.

RA [Republic of Armenia] Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan met the UN Secretary General in the afternoon. According to the spokesperson of the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs Aram Safaryan, Mr. Papazyan presented the situation in the conflict zone, which established since mid-May. The sides discussed the goals of the UN Secretary General's visit to Armenia.

RA President Levon Ter-Petrosyan also met the UN Secretary General. According to Presidential press service, they had a private meeting, after which several official delegations have joined them. The sides discussed peaceful resolution of the Azeri-Karabakh conflict and participation of the UN in development of Armenia.

President Levon Ter-Petrosyan insured readiness of Armenia to implement resolutions of the UN Security Council concerning resolution of the conflict. A special importance was paid to creation of a unified program by the United Nations for peaceful resolution of the conflict and the necessity of parallel measures to facilitate the cease-fire.

Having met the journalists after the meeting, Butrus-Ghali said that he is satisfied by the meeting with RA President, which helped him to create a better understanding of discussed problems, and particularly, concerning the Karabakh conflict. He spoke for stage-by-stage resolution in the light of known UN Resolutions.

Remarks to Armenian Parliament

NC0311142894 Paris AFP in English 1225 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, Nov 3 (AFP)—Armenia has made praiseworthy economic reforms and has a place in the international community, but a hard road lies ahead before economic viability, UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali said Thursday [3 November].

"You have the education, the skill and the experience. Your progress in economic reforms, in particular privatisation of land, is a model for the region," Butrus-Ghali told the Armenian parliament.

But development "will require work and it will require imagination. A transition to a market economy is long and hard," he said during his appearance, also attended by Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan.

Butrus-Ghali made no direct mention of one of the principal causes of Armenia's grinding poverty—its sponsorship of ethnic Armenians battling Azeris in Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous area of Azerbaijan.

The Armenian leader in Nagorno-Karabakh, Robert Kocharian, said Thursday that he met with the UN secretary general late Wednesday, but did not give details on what was discussed.

Butrus-Ghali stressed Wednesday that the UN was not planning to become a mediator in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, but said Azerbaijani and Armenian authorities had agreed on a "step by step" resolution.

The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) has already been appointed to oversee a solution to the conflict, which began six years ago and has claimed 20,000 lives and displaced one million people.

Butrus-Ghali, who arrived in Yerevan Wednesday for a three-day visit, appealed to the two sides to continue respecting a ceasefire signed six months ago.

In his speech Thursday, he looked to the future and declared Armenia "will once more become a development leader," but acknowledged that transforming the former communist economy brought inflation and unemployment.

Politically, Armenia had made great strides since the breakup of the Soviet Union, he said. The country's 30 political parties "are contributing to the deepening of democracy," he said.

He invited Armenia to join the international community and said "the United Nations is ready with its support in this difficult period in Armenia's history."

"The United Nations is your instrument. It is up to you to establish your presence in this organization," he said.

Butrus-Ghali, who began his tour of the troubled Caucasus region in Azerbaijan and Georgia, said the use of Russian peacekeepers in war-torn Georgia helped "spread the burden of peacekeeping, but it also has deep problems in questions of command of control" in the operation.

During his visit to Georgia, Butrus-Ghali dimmed Georgian officials' hopes of a UN peacekeeping force, saying a deployment in Georgia's breakaway western Abkhazia region was not being "discussed" by the UN Security Council.

Single Peace Plan on Karabakh Favored

LD0311202794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 3 Nov 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] During his meeting with the UN General Secretary Butrus-Ghali in Yerevan President Levon Ter-Petrosyan declared that the preparation of a single program of the international community to settle the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict should be carried out simultaneously with the measures aimed at strengthening truce in Nagorno-Karabakh.

At the same time Ter-Petrosyan spoke about readiness of his country to completely fulfil the UN Security Council resolutions on the Karabakh conflict which provide for recognition of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, inviolability of its state borders, prevention of coercive seizures of its territories, and withdrawal of the Armenian armed formations from the occupied territories. Azerbaijan views fulfillment of these conditions as a premise to the solution of the problem concerning political status of Nagorno Karabakh. IF Note: During his negotiations with Butrus-Ghali last Sunday in Baku Azerbaijan's president Geydar Aliyev spoke in favor of restoration of the demographic situation in Nagorno-Karabakh which had existed before the beginning of the confrontation in 1988. According to official information, in 1998 there were about 70 percent of Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh. At present there is not a single Azerbaijani on the territory of the former autonomous region.

Lebanese Transportation Minister Begins Visit

NC0311203194 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1615 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An official Lebanese delegation lead by Minister of Transportation 'Umar Misqawi arrived in Yerevan today for a week-long visit.

As part of the program of the official visit of the Lebanese delegation, meetings and talks are planned at the Armenian Supreme Council, Civil Aviation Department, Transportation Ministry, National Bank, and Ministry of Economy.

Cooperation in air transportation between Lebanon and Armenia and a number of issues of mutual interest will be discussed during the visit.

A news conference is planned with Mr. Misqawi on 7 November.

This is the first visit to Armenia by an official Lebanese delegation and it will result in the development of cooperation between the two countries.

Church Worried About Spreading 'Sects' in Army

NC0311203394 Yerevan SNARK in English 1600 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, November 3 (SNARK)—Armenian Apostolic Church is worried about the spreading of sects in national army. In his address to the army soldiers and officers the head of Ararat Eparchy and Archbishop Garegin Nersesyan stated that "definite political forces, whose purpose is to break the consolidation of Armenian people", are standing beyond these sects.

Azerbaijan

Baku Pleased With UN Position on Karabakh

LD0311210094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1701 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku authorities are pleased with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's words about the firmness of the international principles in resolving the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict when he visited the Azerbaijani capital.

Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov told Interfax Thursday that Butrus-Ghali had listed territorial integrity of states, inviolability of their borders and the inadmissibility of forceful capture of territories among those principles.

Azimov said that Baku was also pleased with Butrus-Ghali's statement that the UN would continue the CSCE peace-making activities and the efforts of its Minsk Group on Nagorno-Karabakh.

Azimov added that what Butrus-Ghali said about the UN Security Council's possible role as coordinator of peace efforts mounted by individual states, in particular the U.S., Turkey and Russia, was also welcome.

Azimov said that it was too early to speak of tangible results of Butrus-Ghali's visit to Azerbaijan but that "the two sides will continue working on the agreements reached and proposals made," in particular on the timeframe for a peacekeeping operation to be mounted in the Karabakh war zone.

President Aliyev Returns From Visit to Turkey

NC0311180894 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As already reported, a delegation headed by Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev visited Ankara between 31 October and 3 November to take part in the celebrations held in the neighboring fraternal Turkish Republic to mark the 500th birthday of the gifted [Azerbaijani poet] Mehemmed Fizuli.

The Republic's president and those accompanying him returned to Baku today. [passage omitted]

Gyandzha Rebel Surrenders, Claims Escape Planned

MK0311142094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 3 Nov 94 p 4

[Report from Baku by Arif Useynov under the "Azerbaijan" rubric: "A Long Echo of Gyandzha Rebellions. Sensational Statement by One of Four Prisoners Who Escaped From Investigation Cell in September"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Arif Pashayev, former commander of the Lachin self-defense battalion, who escaped from the Security Ministry's investigation cell together with three other high-ranking officers 21 September, came out of hiding as he promised and showed up in court voluntarily. He did so after receiving security guarantees and a promise to objectively consider the treason charges leveled against him for surrendering Lachin to Armenian armed units. By his court appearance Arif Pashayev seeks not only to refute the charges, but also to help justice. On 30 October, Arif Pashayev gave a news conference to make a sensational statement. He acknowledged that the escape was planned and carried out by National Security Minister Nariman Imranov, who is currently jailed in the same cell. After their escape it was planned physically to eliminate all the jail-breakers along with Aydyn Mirzoyev, chief of the ministry's prison guard, who was directly in charge of the operation. A guide led the prisoners out by a different route, however, letting each of them work out his fate on his own.

The investigation is inquiring into the question of who stood to benefit from eliminating the investigation cell prisoners. Observers suggest that all of them had important information on the outlawed armed opposition and its ties with special services of neighboring countries.

The foursome of jail-breakers, who are trying to distance themselves from the armed opposition, is interested in an objective assessment of last year's Gyandzha rebellion and its leader, Suret Guseynov.

The long echo of the Gyandzha rebellions continues to reverberate in the public consciousness. According to leaders of the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan, only a democratic state arrangement can rule out further upheavals in the future—with a legitimate parliament and legitimate control over the activity of all government authorities.

Georgia

Military Officials Discuss Troops in Abkhazia

LD0311132694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1059 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The question on the deployment in Abkhazia of Russian interior troops to perform police functions was raised at the meeting between Georgian and Abkhazian military representatives, Russian peacekeeping forces in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict and UN observers. The meeting took place on November 2 in the Zugdidi district in western Georgia. This statement was made to journalists after the meeting by Commander of Russian Peacekeeping Forces, Major General Vassiliy Yakushev.

He said that interior troops could be used to provide safety for the Georgian refugees who returned to Abkhazia, the mandate of the peacekeeping forces enables them to protect the refugees only when they cross the Inguri bridge which connects Georgia and Abkhazia.

"No concrete decision was taken concerning interior troops, since it requires coordination at a higher level," said Yakushev.

Article on 'Escalating' Wave of Hunger Strikes

AU0311170894 Tbilisi THE GEORGIAN TIMES in Georgian 26 Oct-2 Nov 94 p 2

[Unattributed article: "From Hunger Strike to Hunger Strike (Where Are They Leading?)"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Georgian politicians have transformed the most extreme form of political action and protest—the hunger strike—into the most frequent, simple, and repeated action perhaps because, in an impoverished country, declaring a hunger strike is far more feasible than engaging in a struggle or [any other] action. The leaders and ordinary members of a number of parties are continuing long-term hunger strikes, their main demand being the resignation of the head of state. Such a demand has been made by the Conservative-Monarchist Party that has reinforced it by declaring an indefinite hunger strike that commenced on 27 September; it has already united up to 100 volunteers, including the party's leader, Parliament Deputy Temur Zhorzholiani. As you know, there are many in Georgia who favor Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation; in particular, these monarchists have been joined by a group of students from Tbilisi State University, the Georgian Technical University, the Military Academy, the National Organization "Dzveli Sakhli" [Old Home], and the League of Georgian Patriots.

The supporters of the former president [Zviad Gamsakhurdia] have gone further in their demands. On 12 October, the "Round Table-Free Georgia" bloc and the Helsinki Union began a [sit-down] protest action in the courtyard of Merab Kostava's [deceased co-founder of the national liberation movement] house; its participants number 47 persons in total, including four deputies of the Supreme Council from Gamsakhurdia's time.

At a news conference held on 18 October, the action's organizers stated their demands as follows: The abolition of the present regime and the restoration of the legally-elected authorities; the liberation of political prisoners; the Georgian people should be given the possibility of having a free political choice. In addition, they are demanding the withdrawal of Russia's forces of occupation from Georgian territory.

Private individuals and the leaders of certain parties and their active members are also holding actions and hunger strikes. Our society has already become accustomed to the hunger strikes declared by Irakli Tsereteli, leader of the National Independence Party. The sit-down action that he announced on 20 October is linked to seeing in the New Year, only without Eduard Shevardnadze! In a number of cases, hunger strikers are also demanding the

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protection of all- Georgian interests. Actions are being frequently held in protest against the violation of human rights. It is for this reason that Giorgi Kervalishvili, president of the All-Georgian Association for the Protection of Human Rights, is on hunger strike; he is also trying to obtain television airtime for the opposition and the abolition of the death penalty in Georgia.

The hunger strike begun by Lali Lomidze, a representative of the Helsinki Union, on 16 October is aimed at securing the transfer of political prisoner Nemo Chanturia to hospital. It is difficult to say whether Kalbatoni [Georgian polite form of address] Lali's self-sacrifice will have any result as it is universally known that we do not have political prisoners in Georgia.

At the same time, the Helsinki Union is accusing the Committee for the Protection of Human Rights of inaction. According to a statement made by Union Chairman Nino Chavchavadze, instead of Sandro Kavsadze [chairman of Committee for the Protection of Human Rights] meeting with Lali Lomidze to reach agreement on the aforementioned issue, several people emerged from the committee building and tore up the placards of those participating in the action and physically and morally insulted them.

On 18 October, Parliament Deputy Zurab Murvanidze declared a hunger strike in connection with "winter time." Murvanidze is demanding that Parliament discusses the question of moving the clocks forward by two hours [on economic grounds]. [Georgia's clocks were moved forward by one hour on 29 October following his meeting with Shevardnadze].

The wave of hunger strikes in Georgia is escalating.

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